

THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER 1995

HUMANITY IS SCORCHING THE EARTH Top scientists say that global warming is already destroying the planet, page 3



ROB REINER SHOOTS THE PRESIDENT Section Two



2 for 1 Augus Books Offer

Clinton: 'Take risks for peace'

COLIN BROWN and DAVID MCKITTRICK

President Clinton began an historic visit to Britain and Ireland vesterday by praising John Maior and John Bruton for being prepared to "take risks for

Mr Clinton, who is expected to meet Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, at a reception in Belfast today, gave a clear sig-nal that he believed Sine Fein and the other parties to the twin-track peace initiative should also take risks for peace.

On a day when he underlined the "extraordinary relationship" with Britain, the President carefully sidestepped the outstanding gap between Dublin and London over the British de-

nside



Polly Toynbee interviews Hillary Clinton page 19

mand that the IRA should begin decommissioning its veapons before joining all par-

Standing alongside John Masaid: "The message I will give in public is the same as the mes sage I will give in private. The framework set out by Prime Minister Major and Prime Minister Bruton is the best opportunity I have seen to resolve all these issues and I think it should be embraced. I hope it will be." Praising John Major in unusually warm terms for reaching the summit accord and for British action in Bosnia, Mr Clinton said: "I cannot say enough to the British people how much I appreciate and admire the Prime Minister for taking this kind of risk for peace. This was not an easy action for him to take...lreland is closer to true peace than at any time in a generation and risks taken by the Prime Minister and the Irish Prime Minister are the reason why."

The President - who as a student once complained about the class system in Britain - also addressed both Houses of Parliament, with Baroness Thatcher

and DONALD MACINTYRE

Britain's biggest mortgage lenders took home owners by

surprise yesterday with the an-

nouncement that home loans

will fall to within a fraction of

their lowest level for 20 years.

cent off the average 7.99 per

cent standard mortgage rate, and means a saving of around £12 a month on a £50,000 mort-

gage. The move came amid increasing market confidence

that Kenneth Clarke, the Chan-

cellor of the Exchequer, and Ed-

die George, the Governor of the Bank of England, will cut

interest rates after their next

recent all-time low against

other currencies, while share

The pound matched its

meeting on 13 December.

prices hit a new record.

The move cuts about 0.3 per



An American at the Palace: President Clinton addresses both houses flanked by Lord Mackay, leader of the House of Lords, and Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons Photograph: Gary Hershorn

in the audience, and made it clear that the United States intended to remain a major power player in Europe. In the glittering Royal Gallery, Mr Clinton won warm applause when he said the US would never again "go down the road" of

He later met Tony Blair, the Labour leader, for private talks at the US Embassy. They had extremely friendly talks, and the President asked Tony to tell him about New Labour," said a Labour source. Mr Clinton made it clear he admired the support for Britain's foreign policy which Mr Major received from Mr Blair, something he wished he had in Washington.

Mr Clinton discussed with Mr Major US plans for more cooperation between the European Union and the US for tackling global terrorism, and drug trafficking; the case for Russia to be drawn more into European affairs; and for Nato to be expanded to take in some of the former Warsaw pact countries.

Minister dismissed their officials Street lasting nearly an hour be- press conference yesterday,

Mortgage fall heralds

cut in interest rates

to Tory fortunes.

Mr Clarke fuelled Tory hopes

of a second pre-election tax-cut-

ting budget next year by saying it is "pure blind obvious" the

election "will either be towards

the end of 1996 or in the be-

ginning of 1997". Employers

also urged the Government to

cut interest rates immediately by half a percentage point. In a change of policy, Sir

Bryan Nicholson, president of the Confederation of British

Industry, said: "The CBI he-

lieves that conditions are now

right for a sustainable reduction

Halifax Building Society, the

UK's largest lender, with 1.9

million home buyers, pre-empt-

ed speculation of a base rate fall

by announcing its own mortgage

in interest rates."

Major told colleagues they had devoted most of their time to discussing Ireland. Officials did not deny that Mr Major was keen to secure Mr Clinton's sup-

port to put pressure on Sinn Fein behind the scenes.

cut along with the rise in living reduction to 7.74 per cent from

standards promised by the 1 January for existing borrow-Chancellor could prove critical ers. New borrowers will bene-

fit immediately.

Gary Marsh, a spokesman for the Halifax, said: "We wanted

to give the housing market some help as soon as possible".

dropping the cost of its own

home loans according to the

amount borrowed. Loans of

£100,000 will face charges of 7.69 per cent while those bor-

rowing less than £59,999 will pay

cties followed with reductions

between 0.2 and 0.3 per cent. Northern Rock said that it

would bring the cost of its loans

for its 500,000 borrowers to a

new low of 7.59 per cent.

section

Most other building soci-

7.79 per cent from January.

Abbey National reacted by

for a tete-a-tete at Downing conciliatory. At a Falls Road

fore a further hour of talks. Mr

It was suggested that US pressure played a crucial role in bringing concessions from Ireland for the summit on Tuesday. although that was denied yesterday by sources in Dublin.

The initial response from the republicans was noticeably Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said his party would not make a delimitive response for some time, but he repeated several times that Sinn Fein would be approaching the communiqué with a positive attitude. He said: "Clearly what we got

last night was a fudge." two governments that the republicans would not reject the document out of hand.

Both prime ministers yesterday acknowledged that they remained at odds over the disarmament issue. Mr Major reaffirmed his commitment that party talks until the IRA begin disarming, "It is not dogma. It is a matter of practicality." he told MPs. Mr Bruton said the issue should be part of the

talks process. The summit accord was seen His comments are seen as a carefully phrased compro-confirming the calculation of the mise by both sides, which puts off that crucial issue until later. The aim of both sides is that the momentum will now force

the parties to co-operate, and bring about IRA disarmament. Clinton's speech, page 2

Leading article, page 18

IN BRIEF

Reform for Scotland Scotland's 72 MPs are to get a new power to cross-examine the Prime Minister and senior Cab-

inet colleagues over controver-

sial Scottish issues. Council turmoil

Labour suspended the leader and deputy leader of Walsall council, claiming they led a "party within a party". Page 5

Teachers' burden Teachers taking early retire-

is reported today. David Ashby, the Tory MP, yes-terday denied in the High Court

ment are putting a huge strain on the public purse as their

numbers reach record levels, it

that he frequented one of London's "oldest best known gay

Troops for Bosnia The first troops in the Nato-led peace implementation Force are likely to arrive in Bosnia ear-

lv next week, after Russia and Budget aftermath, pages 8-10 News analysis, page 17 Market report, page 21 Nato yesterday proclaimed an "historic" agreement between

Lama selected

The Chinese government presided over the Communist Party-controlled selection of a reincarnated Panchen Lama,

the second most holy figure in Tibetan Buddhism. Page 14

Rail strife deepens

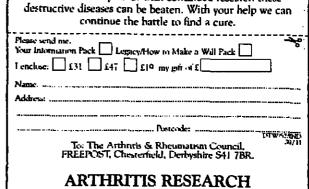
French railwaymen, who have been on strike since last Thursday evening, hardened their action, halting all mainline and suburban services. Page 13

'Right to die' claim

A woman who suffered brain damage and has no hope of recovery and should be allowed to die "peacefully and with dignity", Scotland's first "right to die" legal case was told. Page 4

Today's weather Most of the UK will be dry with sunshine.Section Two, page 25





ARTHRITIS NEEDN'T

There are many forms of arthritic and rheumatic disease

which affect men, women and children in Britain today, causing unrelenting pain and disability in hands, wrists and

joints throughout the body.

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research

celebrates its Diamond Jubilee in 1996 and is the only

major UK charity financing medical research into

esteoarthritis and rheumatic diseases at most university

hospitals and medical schools in the UK.

There is real hope that with continued research these

DIAMONDS MAY

BE FOREVER...

section ONE

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Calls for a reduction came as

the Chancellor played down

hopes of an imminent fall in

base rates. Mr Clarke said

yesterday: "I am not going to start playing fast and loose with

interest rates on the basis of

But his Cabinet colleagues

acknowledged an interest rate

political pressures."

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A Registered Channy.
Patrone HRII The Duchess of Kena.



Single-malt factor eludes the poor

The Chancellor's package of tax cuts will be worth an average of £3 per week to UK households. While most taxpayers will benefit from the 1p cut in the basic rate of tax, the overall modest handout proffered by

Kenneth Clarke yesterday will not be of equal benefit to all. The poorest households which already pay little or no income tax cannot benefit from the rate cut, and are unlikely to be in much of a position to splash out on the now cheaper whiskey. The 10 per cent of households with the lowest incomes will benefit by only 4p per week on average, which is unlikely to do much for the elusive feel-good factor.

Households with the highest incomes, those in the top 10 per cent, will be more able to take advantage of the single-malt factor with extra cash amounting to an average of £7 per week, about I per cent of their net

The chart uses data from the Microsimulation Unit's taxbenefit model, POLIMOD and shows the distributional impact of the main personal tax changes, relative to an indexed base. The indexed base is what would have happened had the Chancellor allowed only for in-flation in his budget statement yesterday. Changes in income due to the effects of the increases in income-tax thresholds, combined with the reduction in the basic rate and the changes to excise duties, are shown as a proportion of pre-

Budget incomes.
Altogether, the tax cuts have a modest impact throughout the income distribution as shown on the chart, but are clearly more generous to households with righer incomes. This is because the change with the most impact - and which costs the most - is the cut in the basic rate. This is of greater value to people with higher incomes but is of no immediate value at all to people below the threshold of the hasic-rate hand.



Those below the basic-rate threshold are people who have incomes of up to £7,665 per year (or £9,455 for married people). This concentration of -rate-cut benefit on middleand higher-income groups is compounded by increasing the upper limit of the basic-rate band by £200 per annum more

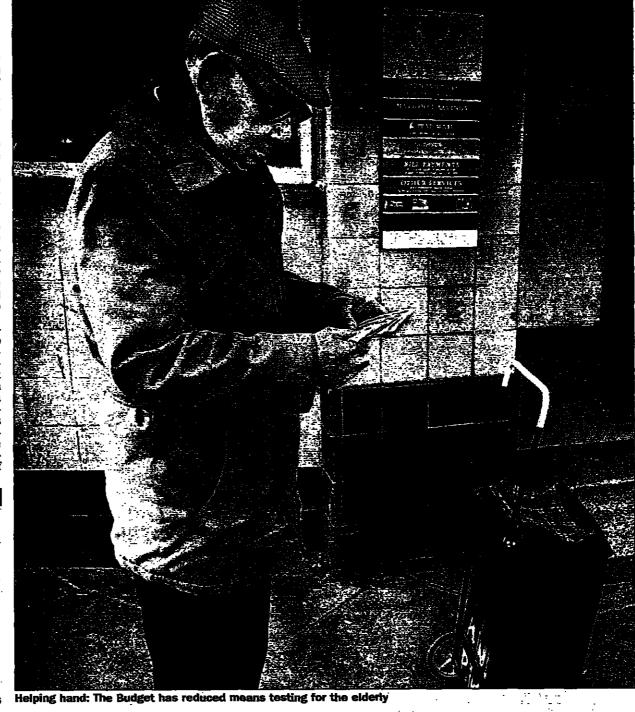
than inflation, to £25,500. This can only benefit taxpayers enjoying incomes near or above this threshold. Almost all of these are in the group of households with the top 10 per cent of incomes. This points up that the general thrust of the taxation measures contained in yesterday's budget will work in favour of the better off, despite Mr Clarke's claims in the House that he is a "person with a real social conscience".

The very rich, however, will not have seen much in the income tax proposals to warrant celebration. But the well-off will benefit more than most from the increase in the threshold for inheritance tax to £200,000 from its current level of £154,000. The Chancellor did not miss the opportunity, however, that the well-off were traditionally the best positioned to make arrangments for the disposal of their property before

The chart shows that the bottom 40 per cent of the distribution - 9 million UK households - stand to gain very little. Those at the very bottom - who were the worst affected by the imposition of VAT on domestic fuel in 1993 - will be virtually no better off than they were this year, underlining the fact that the Government still has some way to go to make up for these regressive measures.

The social security announcements due to be made to the House today by Peter Lil-ley, the Secretary of State for-Social Security, are not expected to rectify this situation for many. Moreover, cuts of a different sort - to housing benefit for young people, the details of which are to be unveiled today - are expected to reduce the incomes of one of the most vulnerable groups at the bottom of

Who are the biggest winners



CARE INSURANCE

Industry hopes for £3bn bonanza in policies for elderly

NIC CICUTTI

Insurance companies were last night toasting a potential bonanza in sales of long-term care policies in the wake of the Chancellor's announcement that he was aiming for a "partnership" between the state and the private sector.

Industry estimates suggest that by the end of the decade, sales of long-term care products could be worth £3bn a year, a 50-fold increase from the £50-£60m sold at present.

The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, said yesterday that he would be talking with insurers and other professionals about plans to end or reduce meanstesting for people who take out LTC plans.

His move, revealed in the Independent last week, follows extensive lobbying by compa-nies, including the Association of British Insurers.

Dr Ian Owen, managing di-rector at Eagle Star, said: "I would give the proposals a cau-

The interest that he shown indicates that he has clearly recognised that something needed to be done. As pioneers in the field, we look to play a full part in the consultation process.

"Introducing measures of immediate help to the elderly combined with a formal con-

sultation on the more thorny as-pects of long-term care in the lt is in many ways what we ex-cies. Mr Clarke also aims to alnext century provides a sensible framework for realistic solu-

"Implemented correctly, tax exemption on long-term insur-ance policies would help send important signals on the need for people to make arrangements for their future."

Peter Gatenby, appointed actuary at PPP Lifetime Care, the largest provider in the sec-

Mr Gatenby said that the average cost of a LTC policy run-ning for three years if purchased

CE ON DOAFO A FANGE OF VIEWS

large part of the elderly popu-

pected, but what is gratifying is low a proportion of a retiring the Chancellor's willingness to person's tax-free pension fund This is also good news for a policy.

The move has been strongly opposed by the National Association of Pension Funds, the umbrella body representing aimost 1,500 schemes in Britain.

Tom Ross, chairman of the

rushing into the proposal. We've been consulting our own members and what we think to take out this kind of insurance without a significant reduction in their pension.

"Nor do our funds want to

take on the risks of insurance. But the important thing is the consultation process and we aim to put forward our ideas on

by someone aged 65, would cost about £6,000. NAPF, said: "It is good that the More than 500,000 people Chancellor is consulting and not this issue."

SAVINGS

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BRINGING LOW COST GAS TO BRITAIN

Benefits for savers 'not enough'

STEVE LODGE and CLIFFORD GERMAN

Millions of savers stand to benefit from the Chancellor's reduction in tax on bank and building society interest to 20 per cent. But the Bradford & Bingley's head of strategy, John Wriglesworth, dismissed it as "a snowflake on an iceberg". The move is typically worth less than a third of a per cent to savers on their balances over a year. And the benefit could easily disappear if, as expected,

base rates are cut. The Chancellor said 14 million savers would gain £5 in every £100 of interest they received as a result of the savings tax measure. The move was part of a Budget with the stated intention of helping savers, specif-ically to reward the thrifty and encourage people to save more. The Chancellor said the average pensioner will gain by £75 a year, and some could gain by as much as £500. Basic rate taxpayers stand to

their savings. On an account paying a gross rate of 5 per cent, savers will be left with 4 per cent net interest rather than 3.75 per cent as before. But a cut in base rates, if passed on to savers by societies and banks, could more than wipe out the benefit. And societies might reduce rates anyway as part of their campaign to help borrowers. Societies, however, welcomed the move as

gain because less tax will be deducted from the interest on

giving more interest to savers. Higher rate taxpayers do not benefit because they will still pay 40 per cent tax on their savings overall. They will now have 20 per cent deducted at source and will owe another 20 per cent through their annual tax return.

The move was presented as a way of helping to create a lev-el playing field for savings. Ba-sic rate investors in shares already effectively pay 20 per cent tax on dividends.

But the move also sidesteps a potential administartive nightmare. With millions more people moving into the 20 per cent income tax band, there have been fears that these savers would reclaim 5 per cent tax under the old 25 per cent savings

The reduction in savings tax also affects gilts and corporate bond Peps. Michael Dyson of BZW said bond and gilt prices would go up marginally as a result. Arguably corporate bond Peps - which shelter investors from all tax - also become a less attractive investment as a result for basic rate taxpayers.

In another move aimed at helping savers, the Chancellor reduced to 60 the age at which people can buy National Savings Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bonds, currently paying 7.5 per cent gross fixed for five years. These have proved an attractive savings vehicle for retired savers . Previously they were only

available to 65-year-olds. Save as You Earn schemes will be extended to allow employees to invest just £5 a month in share options in the shares of

the company they work for. This is half the original minimum of £10 a month. They will also be allowed to invest for only three years instead of the present five year minimum. The holding period during which shares must be held in trust to qualify for exemption from tax has also been reduced from five

Employees will also be exempted from tax on share options worth up to £20,000 granted after 17 July this year. f they are held for three years. The options must be granted at a price close to the market value of the shares at the time the

The new scheme is intended to encourage companies to grant options to lower paid employees, including the Tesco check-out employees who were caught by the Chancellor's measures to penalise over-generous share options for executive "fat

Proshare, the organisation which encourages wider share ownership, welcomed the move but expressed disappointment that the £20,000 limit and the three year period would still penalise middle-rank executives. ESOP, the body which en-

courages employee ownership welcomed the move.

The starting point for payment of inheritance tax has been lifted in a single jump from £154,000 to £200,000 as a step on the way to the total abolition of the tax. It will exempt an estimated 7.500 estates a year from payment of inheritance tax and significantly reduce the liability of the remaining 15,000 estates and cost the Exchequer an estimated £130m in 1996-97 rising to £285m in a full year, reducing the revenue from tax by

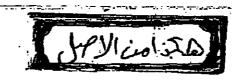
years to three. options are granted.

> States deals, which in some cases provide free care after a three-year period where indi-viduals have paid for themselves. But the aim would be to allow individuals "to retain some of their assets" above the

> new capital limits which will add some £60m to government spending next year. Sally Greengross, Age Concern's director, said the new lower limit which will allow people to keep £10,000 savings was "especially welcome. It will ensure

> But both Age Concern and Help the Aged were more

Help the Aged said the moves did nothing to help those who stay in their own homes, rather than needing residential and nursing care. And it had hoped for a "full review" rather than the lip services of consultation.



LONG-TERM CARE

Package aims to halt crisis

over

BY NICHOLAS TIMMINS

A package of measures to deal with the mounting crisis over the funding of long-term care were announced by the Chancellor.

Immediate action includes an easing of the means-tests that have seen growing numbers of the elderly lose almost all their savings and in many cases their houses, too, if they finish their days in longterm nursing or residential

Benefits paid out under a range of long-term care insurance policies are also to be made tax exempt where the payments are made direct to

the person needing care. And in the longer term, the Government is to consult on ideas similar to those already running in New York and Connecticut in the United States where people who pay for, say, the first three years of care in a home then receive it free, without a means-test - allowing them to pass on any remaining savings and their home to their children.

In addition, the Inland Revenue is to consult over the possibility of allowing occupational schemes to pay variable pensions. Individuals would be able to take a larger pension in later years, when they are more likely to need long-term care, in exchange for a smaller pension earlier on.

The Chancellor's immediate measures mean individuals will only have to run their capital down to £10,000 before receiving free care in homes - at present they have to contribute until their savings fall to £3,000. In future, help will start when their savings are down to £16,000. double the present figure of £8,000.

Long-term care will be a growing problem for the finances of many families," Kenneth Clarke told the

Individuals will only have to run their capital

down to £10,000 before receiving free care

Commons. And while saving for long-term care was "one of the rainy days" for which peo-ple put money by, "the bal-ance between the state paying and the family paying must be people will complain that they are being treated unfairly compared with those who were unable or unwilling to save at all".

Apart from the immediate measures, which Mr Clarke claimed, "will give many elderly people and their famimore financial security and greater peace of mind, the Government also wants to find more ways of helping people plan ahead.

Ministers will consult on "partnership schemes" developed in the United States where people who either take out a policy for long-term care, use part of their pension to buy one, or who otherwise cover themselves for a given sum or period, then receive greater protection against their remaining assets being taken when the money runs

The Treasury proposals may less far than the United new limit of £16,000.

. : Age Concern welcomed the that nest eggs remain exactly

sceptical about the longerterm consultations.

Climatic change: Past caution dropped as UN panel of government scientists concurs on danger posed by greenhouse gases

Experts agree global warming has begun

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

cracies,

Fe

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The governments of more than 90 nations agreed last night that human-made global warming was already under way. The earth's climate appears to have been altered by pollution, a UN panel of expens concluded.

The gradual, unsteady warming of the globe seen this century was the best available

evidence of this, the UN's intergovernmental panel on climate change (JPCC) said. It goes beyond natural variation.

The 1980s and 1990s have had most of the warmest years since worldwide temperature records began nearly 140 years ago. The warming is set to ac-celerate into and through the next century, with temperature rises faster than any of the past 10,000 years.

The panel's declaration after three days of negotiation in Madrid marks a decisive shift in the global-warming debate. Sceptics have claimed there

is no sound evidence that climate has been changed by the billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping "greenhouse gases" spewed into the atmosphere each year, mostly from the burning of fossil fuels and forests.

entists now think otherwise. The balance of evidence suggests an appreciable human inuence on global climate," the IPCC report says. The last such in-depth IPCC report was published five years ago and was far

more cautious. Two of the world's biggest oil producing states, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, made a sustained

take global warming seriously they will shift their econo

into using less crude oil.

But despite the opposition,
the IPCC science working group concluded average temperatures have risen by 0.3 to 0.6C this century and have been "at least as warm as in any other century since AD1400.

"The recent warming has

spring, the report says. Britain's recent mild winters fit well with that.

Sea levels have crept up by as much as 25 centimetres - nearly a foot - over the past 100 vears as warmer oceans ex-pand. Atmospheric concentrations of the heat-trapping greenhouse gases, chiefly carbon dioxide, methane and ni-

But the great majority of effort to water down the report, governments and climate sciThey fear that if governments tude continents in winter and

As for the future, the report.

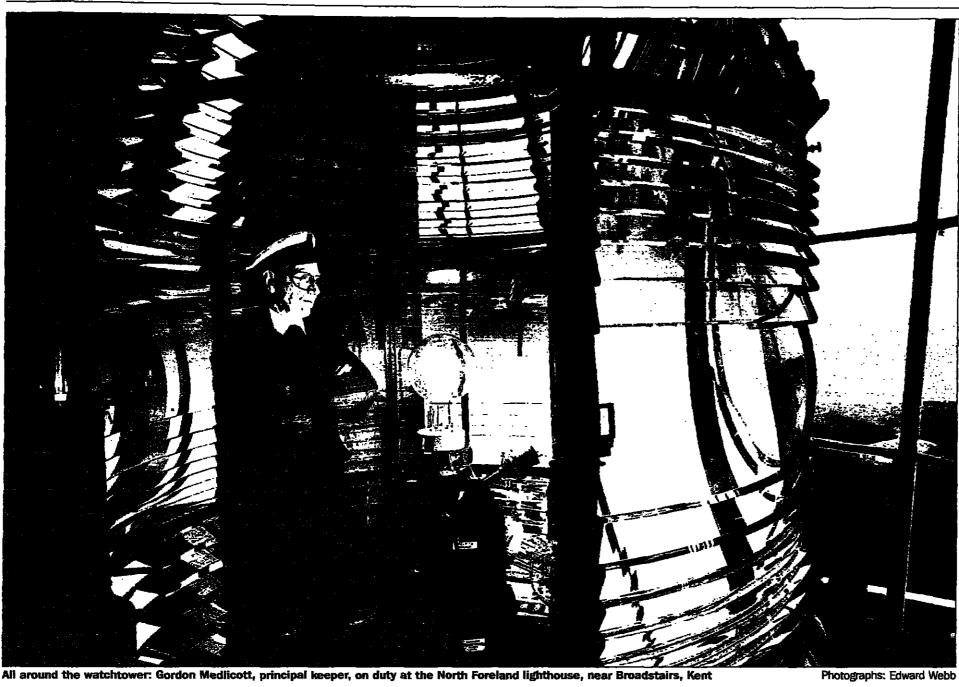
As for the future, the report. As for the future, the report says average temperatures could rise by a modest 1C and a hugely damaging 3.5C by 2100. Sea levels could rise by between 15cm and 95cm by then.

Many climatologists fear humanity could push the climate to the brink of a drastic change such as the ice ages which oc-curred in prehistoric times. Jeremy Leggett, a scientist

employed by Greenpeace, said in Madrid last night: "This has got to be a turning point. We've seen a clear signal that the footprint of climate change is appearing in the sand and is going to be increasingly hard for povernments not to act."

Despite the new consensus

the fossil fuel industries and several governments will argue that the warming changes are so slow little action is needed.





Lights out on a proud tradition

JAMES CUSICK

The lonely and romantic life of the lighthouseman is about to be consigned to history, with the last of Britain's manned lighthouses becoming fully automated by the end of the century. according to the organisation responsible for the safety of shipping in British waters.

Their demise is inevitable, due to advances in satellite technology which enable ships to establish their position to within 10 metres, the General Lighthouse Authority said yesterday as it presented a consultation paper, Marine Aids to Navigation into the 21st Century. Although satellite radio nav-

igation technology has accelerated in sophistication in recent vears, the authority has not carried out a full-scale evaluation of its operations in over 100 years. Now it is aiming to establish what mix of traditional

and new technology will be needed over the next 25 years. The authority currently operates 343 lighthouses throughout the UK and Ireland, only 30 of which are manned. The rest are fully automated and controlled by telemetry and computers.

However, fears that even unmanned lighthouses will fade into memory and become mere architectural relics were dismissed yesterday by Captain James Taylor chief executive of the Northern Lighthouse Board. Northern, along with the Corporation of Trinity House and the Commissioners of Irish Lights run all navigation systems

in coastal waters. Capt Taylor said "Inevitably the dependency on lighthouses will decrease. But at the end of the day we will still need these traditional visual aids. From being a primary source of navigational information they will become a back-up."

General Synod: Leading clerics attack Tumbull committee proposals

Clergy launch assault on Church leadership reform

ANDREW BROWN Religious Affairs Correspondent

Leading clergymen yesterday criticised radical plans for National Council, the new with sustained applause. reforming the government of central committee which the Dr Philip Giddings, vice reforming the government of the Church of England, warn-A meeting of the General

Synod, at Church House, West-minster, was told that the changes – proposed by a committee chaired by the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev Michael Turnbull, and enthusiastically backed by the Archishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey – would place "very considerable power in bands of a largely unelection of Canon Stanley." This will anyone else," according to Are we moving towards a

Canon John Stanley, prolocutor (chairman) of the clergy of the York Archdiocese.

He asked whether the Turnbull report proposes, will ing that it would create an unrepresentative autocracy.
A meeting of the General be able to "give a two-digit sign to the synod?" If you give a body power, it will take it." Canon

Stanley said.

The two archbishops would appoint eight of the fifteen members of the proposed National Council, which would take over the executive func-

ed body that does not appear to be answerable to the Synod or said Canon Stanley. "This will be felt throughout the church.

powerful centre which will not unlike a cabinet of politicians or hear what people in parishes are a board of business

His remarks were greeted

chairman of the House of Laity, said: "The concept of a National Council, largely appointed and not fully accountable, needs fundamental reform. It seems to me remarkable that the jellyfish." commission should propose an additional layer of government, more centralisation, and less

accountability." However, Bishop Turnbull defended his proposals vigor-ously. "I really do not see a grab for autocratic power or anything

"The National Council will actually have very limited power, and in that respect is quite next year.

a board of business

"I do not accept loose allegations that we were motivated by trendy or even out-of-date management doctrine from the business world. The church at national level clearly needs to work better as one body, not as some kind of dismembered

The most enthusiastic support for his proposals came from Mr Philip Lovegrove, of St Albans, who poured scorn on the idea that the National Council would form a centre of power.
The Synod agreed to take

note of the Turnbull report. Legislation embodying its principles will be presented at its next meeting in February

Lincoln 'a place of ridicule'

ANDREW BROWN

Staff at Lincoln Cathedral, which has been riven by a struggle between its dean and its chapter, say it has become a "place of ridicule".

Today, its officials are due to meet to discuss the church's difficulties and the future of their jobs. This year the dean, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, became embroiled in two headline-grabbing rows. One, a long-running dispute with senior members of the cathedral chapter over his leadership style, and the other a controversy which led to him being cleared of an adulterous affair with a cathedral verger at a church court. Yesterday the Church of England's General Synod was told that the trial cost the church more than £100,000.

The dean promptly accused senior members of the chapter, the senior priests in the diocese. of conspiring to remove him.
The verger concerned, Verity
Freestone, is now taking the dean and the cathedral's chapter to a tribunal alleging sexual discrimination, sexual harassment and unfair dismissal. In a statement released yes-



Very Rev Brandon Jackson: at the centre of cathedral rows

terday staff rallied in support of the Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev Robert Hardy, who has said he will report the staff's problems with the dean to the Arch-

have always considered it a beautiful place ...



privilege to work for and in Lin-

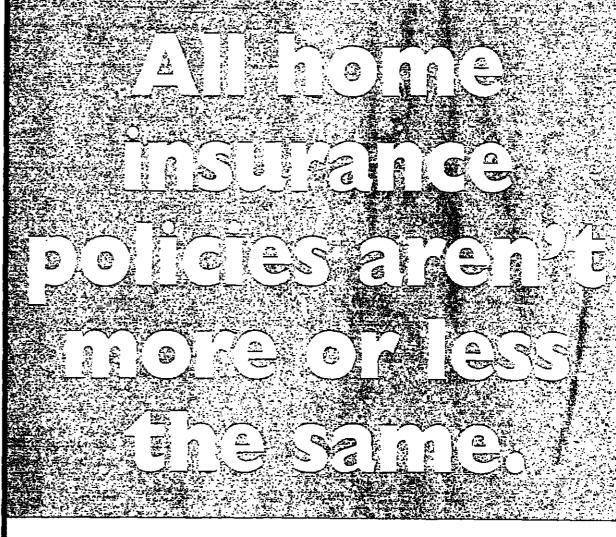
coln Cathedral but unfortunately we all know that over the last six years it has become a place of ridicule. We are beginning to lose our sense of bishop of Canterbury.
The statement said: "We pride in our association with this

"We have not, as yet, had any answers to questions tabled by the staff but it is our hope they will be answered at our next meeting. The Bishop of Lincoln has our full support and we certainly do not feel he needs to re-sign. Many of us are unhappy, frustrated and actually sickened by the whole situation and we feel something must be done urgently to remedy it. It must not be allowed to continue."

Neither the bishop nor the dean can legally be forced to resign by anyone, unless they are convicted of a criminal

Since his arrival at Lincoln Cathedral in 1989 the dean has been locked in a bitter struggle stitute the governing chapter of the cathedral and have enough power under the medieval constitution to thwart any of the dean's initiatives.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said that he was in close touch with the bishop and others about the way ahead. He was "deeply concerned that the wounds of the cathedral be healed as soon as possible",



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Tower of London: Yeomen decide rogue birds are nothing to crow about



Hopping mad: Beefeaters clutching Tower ravens, two of whom were banished this year for had behaviour

Photograph: Edward Webb

Court urged to let comatose mother 'die with dignity'

has no hope of recovery and should be allowed to die "peacefully and with dignity". Scotland's first "right-to-die" legal hearing was told yesterday.

Dr Iain O'Brien has treated

Janet Johnstone since she was taken to the accident and emergency department at Law NHS trust hospital, Lanarkshire, in January 1992, after taking an

overdose of drugs.

Dr Brien was the first witness to appear at the Court of Session in Edinburgh where the hospital - backed by Mrs Johnstone's family - is seeking per-mission to remove the feeding tube keeping her alive. He said he was satisfied that Mrs Johnstone, 52, was in a persistent vegetative state, and had suf-fered irreparable brain damage. Mrs Johnstone was taken to

Law hospital on 14 January 1992, after taking a mixture of drugs. Doctors tried to treat her but she suffered two seizures, one of which lasted about 10 minutes, causing brain damage.

She is able to breathe but has to be fed through a tube and turned every two hours.

Dr O'Brien said she appeared to have no idea of what was going on around her. She did not respond to stimulus, and had "never shown any ability to communicate". There was no evidence that movements she made were voluntary, and in his opinion her brain had no cognitive function. "The prognosis is hopeless," he said. In March 1993, he spoke to

Mrs Johnstone's husband, Peter, and daughter Linda about the possibility of allowing her to die. The daughter reluctantly accepted the advice but Mr Johnstone disagreed, saying he hoped his wife would recover.

There were several meetings over the next year. Finally, in February 1994, the family said they were in favour of removing the feeding tube. A brain scan performed in June showed there had been widespread shrinkage in all areas of the

A woman who suffered brain damage almost four years ago

Since then, she has been kept alive with intensive nursing.

Dr Richard Metcalfe, a conditional conditions of the con Southern General Hospital was asked for a second opinion. He said he had examined Mrs Johnstone twice and was satisfied she was in a persistent vegetative state, He rated her chance of improvement as "virtually nil". In his opinion, the prolonging of life "in this situation is artificial and indeed I would say cruel". Asked to explain, Dr Metcalfe said his use of the word "cruel" referred to the patient's family and friends, who would find it upsetting to

have a loved one in this state. Mary Ellen Davidson, a nursing sister at Law Hospital, told the court that Mrs Johnstone had been moved from a ward to a side room because of the noises she was making. "She cried out a lot, it was disturbing for other patients, she said, adding that she still called out occasionally. In her opinion the cries were involuntary and she could not assess if she was in pain.

The case continues today.

Beefeaters in a flap over ravens

JOJO MOYES

Two were dismissed this year for "going rogue", one was re-moved following unprovoked attacks on a television aerial. and one was last seen outside a pub in the East End. Staff at the Tower of London hope the tenures of Thor and Odin will be less problematic.

The two ravens, who were rescued as fledglings by the Forestry Commission, were presented to the Yeoman Raven Master David Cope yesterday. The brothers replace Charlie who died in August, following a fatal meeting with Charlie, the Police Springer Spaniel.

They settled down pretty quickly. But it was quite obvi-ous their characters fitted their names," a spokeswoman for tale Tower said. "Thor was making a terrible racket and got quite cross.

number of ravens at the Tower to nine. King Charles II decreed calm down". that there should be always at least six at the Tower, to prevent disaster befalling the kingdom, and two more are kept "in reserve". But it was felt the pair, were both male.

World shipping yesterday drew

back from supporting tough new safety standards on roll-on,

roll-off ferries which had been

in these stronger stability reg-

ulations, thanks to a regional

agreement it has reached with

France and other Western

The compromise was

reached on the last day of the

meeting of the International Maritime Organisation, in Lon-

don. It follows recommendations made by an IMO panel of

experts following the Estonia disaster in 1994, which claimed

The panel had recommend-

ed the fitting of watertight com-

partment bulkheads to keep

vessels afloat longer if water

entered the car deck. This

would have meant costly struc-

tural work and would have gone far beyond the standards

set by the 1990 Safety of Lives

endorse the tougher regula-tions and merely agreed that all

at Sea (Solas) convention.

The UK is now set to bring

backed by Britain.

European countries.

more than 900 lives.

who will be fed on bird biscuits soaked in blood and the odd rabbit, would be happier if kept

together. Erratic behaviour from previous ravens has led to a number of official expulsions. George was banished in 1986 to the Welsh Mountain Zoo for "unsatisfactory conduct".

"He was bending TV aerials and ripping them out. The Padre's aerial he took particular offence to. It was very unfortunate," the spokeswoman said. Worse was the behaviour of ravens Hugine and Jackie who were dismissed earlier this month with a "Tower Order" that stated their services were no longer required following "conduct unbecoming to Tower Residents".

Hugine and Jackie, it emerged, had become a little aggressive following their mating period. "It's called "going Their arrival brings the total rogue," the Tower spokeswoman said. "They just didn

> Following their arrival at the zoo, the explanation for their rather aggressive courtship became clear. Jackie and Hugine

ships, rather than just those built since 1990, should meet the less-

However the UK, together

with France, Italy, Spain, Nor-

way and Sweden, put forward a

resolution - accepted by the

IMO - that when two or more

countries in a region agreed on a need to have higher standards,

they could impose them.
It is understood that Britain

helped drag the French into joining in the resolution after they appeared sceptical. The

northern European countries

will now meet in Sweden next

week to thrash out further de-

tails of their agreement.
William O'Neil, IMO direc-

tor-general, had backed the

tougher standards. Asked if

countries had taken the cost of

improvements into account, he

later said: "I think there was a

strong consideration of the eco-

strong factor in both the Esto-nia disaster as well as the Her-

Zeebrugge in 1987 in which more than 190 lives were lost.

Water on the car deck was a

nomics of the whole thing."

er 1990 standards.

UK wins deal

on ferry safety

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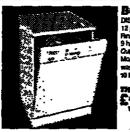








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DAILY POEM

Yesterday the IMO failed to ald of Free Enterprise tragedy at

Winter Light

By Cynthia Fuller

What has it done, the winter light with its opalescence and cold edge? Day lengthening it drained all colour to still silver, black lines, grey darkening. What has it leeched from us who sat soaking in its pale beauty?
We are bleached like bare bone; cold, so cold.

Cynthia Fuller was born in Kent in 1948 and has spent her working life teaching literature and creative writing for the Open University and in Adult Education colleges. Her first collection, Moving Towards Light was published in 1992. A new collection Instructions for the Desert ranges round the landscapes of her adopted County Durham and North Yorkshire and is published by Flambard at £6.95.

Town hall turmoil: National Executive Committee acts to curb Walsall's ruling group amid allegations of party within a party

Labour removes 'extremist' council chief

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

Labour yesterday suspended the leader and deputy leader of Walsall council, claiming they led a "party within a party" and were refusing to open their plans for 50 mini town halls to public consultation or independent scrutiny.

Dave Church and his deputy, John Rothery, were suspended from membership of the Labour Party, along with a third councillor, Brian Powell, by the party's National Executive Committee. Labour councillors will be required to elect a new council leader in the

next few days.

The NEC decided, by 21 cotes, with left-wing MPs Dennis Skinner and Diane Abbott voting against, that the council leadership had failed to give the required assurances by the deadline of midnight on Tuesday.

NEC member Clare Short. who visited Walsall with John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader, said: "We have no alternative but to take the action that was recommended to the NEC today. When we went to Walsall we believed that we could conciliate, but the people with whom we were negotiating broke their word. We now have evidence of a tight and disciplined group within the party and we have to act."

The NEC decided to investigate charges that a faction called the Walsall Socialist Group was operating secretively within the local party. A Labour spokesman said the group appeared to have a closed membership, by invita-tion only, that members were alleged to have to pay 1 per cent of their salary in subscription and that it allegedly operated strict internal discipline. The Labour Party's rules ban groups "having their own programme.

Walsall Labour Party has been sharply divided for decades, with a left-wing group, known until recently as the Tribune group, holding power in the early 1980s. The left took control again after May's local elections, with a radical plan to give "power to the people" through more than 50 neighbourhood committees, elected

principles and policy

by local people. In August, the national Labour leadership suspended the Walsall district party organisation and handed a propaganda coup to the new failed to do this.

Conservative chairman, Brian Mawhinney, who had visited the West Midlands town to draw attention to the council as an

example of "real Labour". Mr Rothery claimed to be "terribly shocked" by the announcement: "This talk of a tight, disciplined group is not true. Walsall Socialist Group is a discussion group which meets to talk about national issues. It does not have any premises, there is no constitution, there are no rules, there is nothing."

Fifteen of the 34 Labour councillors are believed to be members of the group. A further 15 belong to the rival "moderate" group, while four are non-aligned. With the group's strength reduced, a "moderate" is likely to take over the council leadership.

Mr Rothery said the Socialist Group was affiliated to the national Socialist Campaign Group, which claims several Labour MPs as members.

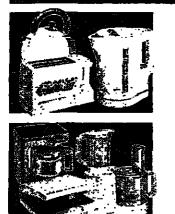
Mr Church and Mr Rothery met Mr Prescott last Thursday and were given an ultimatum to agree to genuine public con-sultation, looking at all the options, and to "some form of independent validation". A Labour spokesman said they



Out in the cold: Walsall Council leader Dave Church. His plans have fallen foul of the party leadership

Photograph: Ashley Coombes/Newsteam

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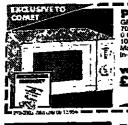


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Tory council 'risked lives of tenants'

CHRIS BLACKHURST Vestminster Correspondent

Evidence has emerged suggesting that Westminster council put homeless families at risk by moving them into two blocks of flats known to be riddled with asbestos, as part of the controlling Tory group's alleged errymandering policy.

Documents supplied to the Independent and to John Barratt, an independent investigator hired by the present council to look into the claims, suggest that the controlling Tory group. led by Lady Shirley Porter. moved 100 families into the flats to reduce the potential Labour vote in key marginal wards. The investigation by Mr Bar-

ratt, the former chief executive of Cambridgeshire County Council, is the second currently under way into the activities of Westminster's ex-Tory leaders. The first, and best known - the "homes for votes" inquiry into suspected gerrymandering by Lady Porter and council colleagues - is expected to be completed next month.

However, the Barratt inquiry, which is also due to be finished shortly, could be just as explosive. It concentrates soleand Chantry Points in Paddington. The council was well aware of the dangers posed by the flats. In 1983, its own Environmental Health Officer warned that

conditions in the block, includ- keen to prevent a local coming the "extremely friable nature" munity group from taking them of this type of asbestos" indicated its "necessity for removal as a matter of urgency". From the date of that warning, 10 February 1983, no more flats were let on secure tenancies.

In August 1983, the Department of the Environment published a circular - Asbestos Material in Buildings - warning of the public health risk. The circular highlighted the problem unique to the two blocks, where ly on the decision in 1989 to re- asbestos had been sprayed on locate families into Hermes to the steel structure to act as a safeguard against fire.

Gradually, tenants moved out and the blocks became partially empty. Lady Porter and her colleagues, however, were MP for Milton Keynes South

Porter on 28 February. over, refurbishing them and removing the asbestos. The

policy, codenamed "Building Stable Communities", of keeping likely Labour voters out of marginal wards. Hermes and Chantry were earmarked for homeless families, concentrating them in a safe Labour ward. Documents show a decision

of its alleged gerrymandering

to move the homeless into the tower blocks was taken at a meeting of the council's inner cabinet. the chairman's group", chaired by Barry Legg - then, a Tory councillor, now

Prior to this decision, the council had been moving tenants out of the flats and smashing them up, to prevent squatting. When new tenants began moving in, asbestos was exposed in some places.

In 1990, after the Health and Safety Executive was alerted, the council admitted the flats were dangerous and posed a statutory nuisance under the Public Health Acts. The tenants were moved out, the flats sealed and subsequently demolished.

Last night, Westminster council issued a statement, refusing to comment, pending the outcome of the full report.

Council leader forced to quit over

affair

The Labour leader of a city council resigned from his post yesterday after a long-running row over his relationship with a council officer.

Stewart Foster, leader of £369.99 Leicester City Council, nar-SAIT ET rowly lost a vote of confidence in a meeting of his Labour group last night.

Mr Foster, married with three children, was accused in a confidential council document of breaking the councillors' code of conduct over his affair with his senior policy adviser, Kathy Kerswell.

The council's chief executive.

Imtiaz Farookhi, said that the relationship posed a risk of maladministration.

He decided to send Ms Kerswell on a 12-month subbatical MBA degree course at De Montfort University, in Leicester, to defuse the situation. It was first alleged Mr Foster

for Ms Kerswell at the council's expense. A report by the town clerk found the allegation untrue but critics in the council's ruling Labour group have been determined to oust their leader

for apparently embarrassing Mr Foster, leader of the council for just 18 months, has always denied the affair led to any wrong-doing although his relationship with Ms Kerswell

is continuing.
Robert Wann, chairman of the council's leisure services committee and a possible successor, said the vote went against Mr Foster last night by 21 votes to 20.

Mr Wann said: "We do need to look for somebody who will bring the two factions of the Labour group together."

Mary Draycott, chairwoman of the Labour group and a supporter of Mr Foster, said: He has brought a refreshing management style to the council but many did not accept

Mr Foster was not available for comment.

Acute patients 'suffering malnutrition'

from malnutrition - but in many cases doctors and nurses do not spot the symptoms, a charity representing nutrition

experts said yesterday. All patients should be screened routinely to spot those

icute patients are suffering eases which led them to go to hospital initially, said the British Association for Parenteral and

> Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN). As many as 1.400 of the 14,000 people who go into hospital as acute admissions each day would be seriously mal-

ficulty in chewing or swallowing. and digestive disorders.

Malnourished patients recovered more slowly and stay

longer in hospital. Weighing and questioning patients was the best way of identifying the signs of mal-

As many as one in 10 of the people admitted to hospitals as well as the complaints or dis-

cialist journal Clinical Nutrition But 50 per cent of doctors and nurses did not weigh patients on admission and 91 per cent failed to take a note of height, while nearly 40 per cent were not asked about their eating habits and dieting.





Kenneth Clarke, ha ha ha.



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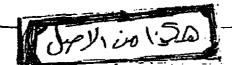
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Teachers' drop-out rate is costing millions

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

Teachers taking early retirement are putting a huge strain on the public purse as their numbers reach record levels, it is reported today. The Government claims not to know

what is behind the increase. Last year, 6,075 teachers left the profession prematurely through ill bealth, more than double the 1985 figure of 2.698. The figures, which are contained in a report from the

the public finance watchdog, will fuel the claims of teachers' unions that their members are being placed under an intolerable strain by education cuts and large classes.

When those not ill but wishing to leave and take advantage of the Government's pensions and superannuation scheme are included, the annual average total of teachers retiring early has shot up from 11.624 to 17.187. Overall in the last decade, 150,000 teachers in the

state and independent sectors have left the profession. Teachers in independent schools still qualify for the Government-financed scheme. Last year alone, the cost to the taxpayer

of those leaving was £134m. In the report, Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, and head of the NAO, criticised the lack of information about the numbers of teachers resigning. He said the Teachers' Pensions Agency, part of the Department for Education, has πo "firm information" on the

teachers quitting through ill health. Part of the problem, Sir John said, is that the agency is not receiving adequate information, or applications are be-

has had medical treatment. But now, Sir John said, it is taking a tougher attitude: "The agency have taken action designed to ensure that the medical criteria for early retirement on ill-health are applied more consistently and rigorously as the annual number of such cas-

ing made even before a teacher

es has more than doubled to forcing local education authorover 6,000 over the last 10

The total cost to the taxpayer is only assessed at five-year intervals. Latest figures from the Government Actuary cover the period to 31 March 1986 and showed a shortfall between teachers' own pension contri-butions and payments, of £1.55bn. The actuary is working on the next review for the five years to March 1991.

Attempts by the Government to tackle the problem by early has soared, so that the

ities and independent employers to contribute more to the superannuation national scheme are unlikely to be enough. Teachers pay h per cent of their salaries, while employers pay 8.05 per cent. By making employers pay more. the Government aimed to wipe

out the shortfall over 40 years. But that calculation was based on the actuary's 1986 review. Since then, as Sir John has confirmed, the number retiring

contributions from employers will have to rise further. "The Department expects that the review ... will indicate that the deficit on the scheme has grown. This will lead to a substantial increase in employers' contributions if the policy on early retirements remains un-

changed," Sir John warned. He is heavily critical of the Department for Education for claiming not to know why so many teachers are retiring and for reviewing the cost to the taxpayer only at five year intervals.

financial strains placed on the Teachers' Superannuation Scheme as a consequence of the increasingly high level of early retirements, particularly since the Department are not clear as to the underlying causes for this. am also concerned at the delay in completing the actuarial review of the Scheme".

Sir John said that it was not fair to ask the employers to contribute more to relieve a burden which should have been

Cossack adventure: Horsewoman tangles with bureaucracy at Harwich after 2,500 trek



Horsewoman rides in to glory

CLARE GARNER

They say the last part is always the hardest. For the intrepid British horse breeder, who trekked 2,500 miles across eastern Europe on horseback, this

was not far from the truth. As Barbara Whittome, 48, tried to disembark from the Harwich ferry in Essex at dawn yesterday with the three Cossack endurance horses she had bought for breeding from a small village in Russia, it was clear that her battle with bu-

reaucracy was not yet won. Clutching a bunch of flowers in one hand and a mobile phone in the other, her husband, Giles Whittome, 58, naced nervously up and down trying to placate the

wife, who he had seen for just half a day in the last six months, he said "She is stuck somewhere between freight and customs."

An hour later Mrs Whittome emerged, ready to field questions. Why did she do it? "Why not? Horses are a form of transport - I wasn't in a hurry," she replied. Her husband, glowing in reflected glory, said: "I'm so proud of her. I don't know anyone else who could do it."

Mrs Whittome had set her heart on jumping straight back into the saddle for the last 60 miles home to Denston, Suffolk. But the combination of bureaucrats and reporters meant she had to leave the port by car.

Her horses - Pompeii, a palomino stallion, Malishka, a gathered photographers. Of his grey mare, and Masha, a dark



Journey's end: Barbara Whittome (left, on Masha) is met by her husband, Giles, yesterday

bay mare - which according to her husband had cost her "peanuts ... below meat value", were driven off separately. This was by no means the first

time Mrs Whittome had had to compromise since she set out from Volgograd in June. In Sweden two weeks ago, pa-

perwork problems over entering the European Union forced her "rather ignominiously" to box up the horses and drive to the Hook of Holland instead of riding. Yesterday she admitted think we've proved our point." Mrs Whittome refused to

saying, "I'll have to think about it. I have to resume normal life first." But her husband, who funded the £45,000 trip from the sale of his collection of classic 'It's a bit disappointing but I cars and antique guns, feared it would not be long before she

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

A more immediate plan is to turn Mrs Whittome's nightly jottings into a travelogue, named Bandits and Bureaucrass after the most prominent features of her trip. Serialisation rights could go some way towards recouping the cost of the Russian trip and funding the next.

Ashby denies eyeing up men in gay pub

David Ashby, the Tory MP, denied he frequented one of London's "oldest, best known gay pubs" yesterday in the High Court Mr Ashby, who denies he is a homosexual, was giving evidence in the sixth day of his libel case against the Sunday Times and Andrew Neil, the former editor.

According to Richard Hart-ley, QC for the Sunday Times. Mr Ashby was spotted in the Queens Head pub in Chelsea by Andrew Pierce, a Times journalist. He described seeing Mr Ashby in December 1991 wearing an anorak, and wandering around the pub "looking at younger men".

"It's a friendly pub, with copies of gay magazines in the bar ... a place where men go with male partners or to pick up male partners, you see men holding hands," Mr Hartley said. "You only have to order a drink to see the bar staff are ob-

viously gay."
Mr Ashby, MP for Leicestershire North West, denied he was in the pub and insisted he was at his Ravenstone constituency home for the weekend. Mr Ashby said he had visited the pub on two occasions but was unaware it was gay. He added: Chelsea is a weird area. There are lots of weird people."

When Mr Ashby attended a cocktail party a month ago to launch a book entitled Great Parliamentary Scandals, in which The case continues.

he featured following the Sun-day Times articles that alleged he slept with a man in Goa, he met Mr Pierce, assistant editor of the book, for the first time." walked up to him and called him a liar," Mr Ashby said.

He also produced the sleeping contraption that aids his sleep and tried it on in front of the jury. It consisted of a tight fitting cap attached to a nosepiece, connected to a tube that blasts air into his nostrils. Mr Ashby's lawyers said his impotence and the need for the sleeping aid make homosexual relations less likely.

Mr Ashby's House of Commons expenses claims were also produced in court, including entries for the Leicestershire trip on the weekend he was alleged to have visited the Queens Head. But Mr Hartley produced expenses claims from Mr Ashby on behalf of Silvana Ashby, his wife, who acted as his parliamentary secretary. They included claims for her journey to Leicestershire on a weekend it emerged she had travelled to Berlin on an arts trip.

Mr Ashby said expenses had to be completed a month after the event, which meant dates could be confused.

The Sunday Times accused Mr Ashby of being a hypocrite about his homosexual relations. He denied that he slept with Dr Ciarian Kilduff, a doctor, when he left his wife, although they shared a bed on a trip to France.





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Waldegrave targets quangos for more cuts

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

The Government launched a drive yesterday to cut the number and running costs of quan-gos in the wake of "Draconian" cuts in civil service bureaucracy announced in the Budget.

William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that quangos were his next target. In Tuesday's Budget, the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke,

WELFARE REFORM

Labour Editor

for their benefits.

In a decisive break with

fundamental principles of

Britain's welfare system, the

Government is to introduce a

compulsory workfare-style

scheme, under which the un-

employed are required to work

Ministers yesterday set out the details of a £12m pilot

programme, in which the

long-term unemployed will be

obliged to participate or lose

Explaining a statement by the

Chancellor in his Budget

speech, Eric Forth, Minister of

State at the Department of

Education and Employment.

said taxpayers expected some-

thing in return for providing

programmes for the jobless.
"Most long-term unem-

ployed want to get back to work and will value the help the

scheme gives. Some, however, may have no intention of

finding work," Mr Forth said. He argued that the jobless were

often at a disadvantage be-cause they lacked motivation or

In the two trial schemes, in areas to be announced, all those

aged between 18 and 50 who

have been out of work for two

report for the "Project Work"

scheme they will be offered

advice on how get back into the

labour market with training for

pected to obtain work experi-

ence in jobs provided by

voluntary organisations, charities and private sector training

companies, typically involving decorating, construction and

For the first 13 weeks of the

years or more will be told to training companies or voluntary

some claimants and work trials prehensive workfare system."

Thereafter they will be ex- considering an element of

confidence.

for others.

gardening work.

payments from the state.

Unemployed

must work

for benefits

announced a 5 per cent cut over cracies in the way that central the next three years in Whitehall's £15bn running costs, amounting to a 12 per cent cut

taking into account inflation.

Mr Waldegrave said: There is a huge fringe of non-depart-mental public bodies surrounding government, some of which have managed to escape from similar levels of pressure, because they are self-financed. They don't for example identify their running cost bureau-

The department says: "Refusal to attend the mandatory

work experience programme

will lead to loss of benefit."

Under principles laid out in the Jobseekers' Allowance legislation, "vulnerable" defaulters,

with family responsibilities or a

degree of disability, will re-

ceive hardship payments of 40

per cent of their benefits and in

On the first occasion an

"able-bodied" person refuses to

attend the work experience

course, he or she will forfeit two

weeks' benefit and on the sec-

ond and subsequent occasions

they will lose four weeks' mon-

ey. If they refuse to have any-

thing to do with the programme

they will receive no benefit

whatsoever. Mr Forth said: "I

believe taxpayers who fund

Britain's generous benefit sys-

tem would expect nothing less." The Department of Educa-tion and Employment denied

that the two new pilot pro-grammes, expected to cover

about 6,000 claimants, consti-

tuted "workfare" in the Amer-

ican sense, as the Government did not provide the work.

However, Paul Convery, of the Unemployment Unit

pressure group, said the only difference was that the work

was farmed out to private

inched cautiously and with

some subtlety towards com-

pulsion. This is a decisive and

very clear step towards a com-

compulsion for the unem-

ployed, Michael Meacher, the

party's employment spokesman.

said it was necessary to

ensure quality. Any programme

should offer proper training

and a "throughput to jobs".

Mindful that Labour is

organisations or charities. The Government has

some cases just 20 per cent.

government does

He named one quango in his sights. "There are some very big animals out there - like the Health and Safety Executive."

cuts in Whitehall.

already had considerable suc-

cess in reducing the number of

efficiency of those that remain.

But we intend to make further

The HSE has an annual budget of around £230m, of which about £40m is self-financed, partly raised from licence charges. But a source in the HSE said yesterday: "We certainly have not been immune from cost-cutting pressures."

Mr Waldegrave said he wanted to see cuts in the running controls of administration costs, costs of quangos, which he estimated at £10-12bn a year, to of the scope for further cutting the numbers of quanges and of ways to monitor how they match the 12 per cent real-terms achieve their objectives. He told a Treasury news con-

The Labour Party accused ference: "The Government has the Government of sponsoring a huge growth in the number of unaccountable and unelected quangos and improving the bodies, such as NHS trusts. Andrew Smith, Labour's Treasury spokesman, said yesterday: "It must not be forgotten that

He announced a review of it was the Tories who initiated the proliferation of the quango state, frittering money away on bureaucracy, new logos and keeping their friends in 'nice littie earners'. But needless to say these measures do not go far

enough." The initiative follows the three-year cut in Whitehall running costs, condemned as "Draconian and devastating" by civil service unions. The cut followed two years in which the

cash spending on administration was frozen. It was this measure which Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, said fills me with despair in a leaked letter during the spend-

ing negotiations. Mr Lilley, speaking on BBC Radio's Today programme yes-terday, said: "We managed to reach a sensible settlement with ring-fenced money going to enhance the work against fraud that was my main concern."

Mr Waldegrave defended the overall cut in running costs. These savings will not reduce services. The Citizen's Charter has shown that standards can rise with lower costs.

"We are also trying to abolish bureaucracy wherever we can. There are now 506,000 civil servants - fewer than at any time since the war. The reductions in running costs should help bring the numbers well below 500,000 next year." he said.

ARTS FUNDING

Use of lottery cash may be extended

DAVID LISTER Arts Correspondent

Lottery money may be used to commission new plays for theatres under a deal to be put to the Secretary of State for National Heritage, Virginia Bot-

Under current legislation lottery money can only go to-wards capital assets such as

new buildings. But Lord Gowrie, the chairman of the Arts Council, aims to persuade Mrs Bottomley that a new play is a new creation just like a new building and thus a "tangible asset".

The two will be meeting next week, and sources at both the Arts Council and the Department of National Heritage say the pair are determined to claw back some money for the arts after the disappointing 3 per cent cut in the grant for the department from the Treasury, and Mrs Bottomley's subsequent £5m cash cut for the Arts Coun-

An Arts Council spokeswoman said Lord Gowrie had been examining the lottery leg-islation and had found certain areas "at the edges" where there was scope for flexibility. Mrs Bottomley said yesterday: "We both want to find a

way forward, to find an ac-

commodation.' Using lottery money for commissioning new work – it could apply to operas and symphonies as well as plays - would delight the arts world, but would certainly cause hostile comment from those who already see lottery money as being used for éli-

tist and minority tastes. Meanwhile theatres, opera bouses and other Arts Council clients have had their planning thrown into confusion by an unprecedented move by Lord funding source."

Gowrie to postpone the allocation of their grants.

In a fierce reaction to the £5m cash cut, Lord Gowrie, himself a former Conservative Cabinet minister, has refused to make the annual grant allocations in December as planned. Calling the treatment of the

arts "damaging and irrational". he said the council would not allocate grants for next April until at least the end of January. He added: "We share the

Secretary of State's commitment to people as well as buildings. We shall be looking for her



Lord Gowrie: Seeking to recoup money lost to arts

to work with us to translate this into practice over the next few

Mrs Bottomley is understood to have been privately upset by the Treasury's parsimony to the arts, which suffered nearly a 3 continued to blur the important distinction between government grant and lottery money, saying: "Lottery money is additional to government spenddepartment has had an extra

LIB DEM VIEW

HOUSING BENEFIT Lilley defends cut in payments to young

NICHOLAS TIMMENS Public Policy Editor

Cuts in housing benefit for the under-25s, a renewed drive the rent they can claim will against fraud and a move that will double to £20 a week the amount charities and others can pay to people on meanstested benefits without their benefit being cut, were detailed yesterday by Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social The housing benefit change

potentially affects nearly young people living at home are

BROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT 3.9

excluding mortgage payments

Consumer spending

200,000 young people living in expected to contribute to housprivately rented homes, saving E100m over the next year.

From October next year, be limited to the average for shared accommodation removing their ability to live in even a one-bedroom flat unless they make up a difference in rent that could amount to £30 a week or more.

In addition, housing benefit is to be paid in arrears, not in advance, while the amounts

Economic forecasts

27

2.5

0.1

2.5

1.00

0,25

5.25

3.00

0.00

26-28

1.7.22

1.6-3.2

0.0-0.2

: 1.2-3.5.

Due to production difficulties, some figures in these tables in yesterday's Independent were incorrect

ing costs where their parents are on benefit is to rise by more than the rate of inflation

The measures were attacked as "a double whammy" with party that is in favour of keeping families together."

"malign consequences" by Chris spokesman. They would encourage families to remove adult children from their homes - and then force young people into shared accommodation. "And this." he said, "is from the

Forecast for 1996

3.4.6.4

-0.3-1.7

-0.6-0.1

3.00 2.75

5.25

0.25

0.00

0.9

5.6

3.50

4.25

0.25

Mr Lilley, however, argued that the present system let people on benefit live in better accommodation than some in work could afford. It would discourage people from leaving home and reduce the attraction

Punch line: Kenneth Clarke being interviewed yesterday for 'Today' on Radio Four Photograph: Stefan Rousseau/PA

of moving to seaside resorts. The measure is one that will contribute to a further £500m saving in social security spending next year and £1bn the year after, the biggest single savings coming from restrictions to asyhim seekers' benefit and the battle against fraud.

asylum seekers' changes, Mr Smith announced, attacking the reforms as "inhumane and unjust". Under the package, which will save £170m this year, benefits will only be paid to 30 per cent of asylum seekers who declare themselves to be refugees on entry to the UK, and those who lose their claim

while they pursue an appeal. Mr Lilley is also going ahead with changes which will force more people on industrial

will lose entitlement to benefit

Labour would oppose the injuries benefits to transfer to rather than keeping a reduced carnings allowance. But some of the biggest savings next year - another £120m - are expected to come from more new claimants, around one-third, receiving a home visit when they first claim and from a new computer system which will check housing benefit claims across local authorities - a move aimed at preventing the multiple claims which form a

key element of landlord fraud.

	New s	pending pla	ΠS		
2 billion	Estimated 1995-96 million	N 1996-97-	e w p l a a 1997-98		Jiange en previous forecast 1996-97
	21210 4620	21423 4180	21910 = 4660	22620. 4410	-500 T
Transport	9670	- Car	(9 30 #.5	. 8(0)	基本810 预
DOE-Local government	30320 6690	31320 6534	31380 6640	31530	430
Education & employment	14190 32930	14040	14510 34180	14520 34976	-430° 520
Social Security Other departments	73730 21510	76810	79600 19720	82250 19710	1040
Scotland, Wales & N Ireland Localizationity self-financed specification	29010 12900	29360 2500	29730 13080	29930 13300	-10
Reserve California fortal	2555D#	2500 258288	5000 268268	7500 275000	-3200
Cyclical social security	14000 20500	13900	14200 24800	14700 24990	-100
Accounting adjustments	9600	9700	9160		-800
especialisms	2940	306100	36500		
Privatisation proceeds (Other adjustments*	-3000 	-4000 6200	-2500 - 6500	1500	1000
General government expenditure -% of GDP	352100 42	308380	319509 39.75	128700	4000 * 0.5

Ashdown hits at Labour move on tax

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal 'pathetic" Labour's intention to abstain on next Tuesday's vote on the 1p cut in income tax. The Liberal Democrats re-

newed their pledge to vote against the reduction as a protest against the £878m allocation in the Budget for schools. which many believe will not allow them to reverse last year's increased class sizes and teaching job losses. While the impact of the schools' settlement cannot be judged until to-day's announcement of council budgets, Mr Ashdown said: "People will be asked to pay through their council tax for their income tax cuts."

The Liberal Democrat leader said that one of the subtexts of the Budget was to shift the blame for spending concerns away from central government and on to Labour and Liberal Democrat-controlled local councils. He predicted that Labour would face a storm of

The cap on council spending could be eased in today's announcement, but moves to spend more on education could see council tax bills rise or othwhether the Government will fully fund this year's teachers'

pay settlement, an issue that will not be settled until February. Challenging Labour to vote for the 1p cut to be used for ed-Democrat leader, lambasted as ucation and training, Mr Ashdown said: "The plain truth is that unless we improve Britain's level of education and skills, then we will not have an economic future. If Labour will not vote to put education first in opposition, how can the country trust them to do so in

government?"

A sizeable proportion of Labour MPs in the Campaign Group and other left-wingers are expected to defy the party whip and vote against the cut. There was also private recog-

nition in mainstream Labour circles yesterday that Mr Clarke's Budget, which helped the floating middle-income voter, could cause problems for Labour in next May's local elections. By that time, electors will be feeling the benefits of the Budget in their pay packets while Tory activists will be preparing to campaign over higher council taxes

In a speech to the Germanprotests from local councillors. British Chamber of Industry and Commerce yesterday, Mr Ashdown denounced the Budget as "irresponsible" because Government borrowing was still to high and way above last year's er council services suffer. There forecasts. He said: "The Budis a further question mark over get arithmetic depends on a growth level most people doubt



Ministe

prepare i

AFTER THE BUDGET

Cutting edge: Twyford Down shows the scars of the Government's abandoned drive to expand the road infrastructure

TRANSPORT POLICY

Motor lobby attacks cuts as road to ruin

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

The road lobby is demanding a parliamentary inquiry into how the road-building programme was slashed in a review slipped through in the Budget. One lobbyist described it as "the worst day for Britain's infrastructure since the Romans left?.

Edmund King, the RAC's campaigns' manager, who yesterday conducted a detailed analysis of the cuts, said: "We cannot understand how the Chancellor could claim in his speech that the £500m Private Finance Initiative meant good news for the roads' programme. In fact, 77 schemes, or 40 per cent of the total, have been cut and a further 40 out of the remaining 107 schemes have actually been put on hold."

Mr King suggested that the 40 schemes on hold represent-

ed another hidden cut, since work on them would not start for several years. Only eight road schemes would be started between now and April 1997; two of these involve contracts on the A12-M11 link road where work has already started, and another is the A34 Newbury

hypass.

Mr King said he wanted the Commons transport committee to launch an inquiry. "Although the department claims that various factors such as the environment and local support were 'taken into account', many popular bypasses, which are com-pletely uncontroversial, have been permanently axed. There seems to have been no proper criteria in carrying out this socalled review.

Of the 77 schemes dropped, 22 are bypasses which ministers have previously said are a pri-ority. Other major casualties in-

AMERICANS ALWAYS WANT THE BEST, SO NATURALLY THEY CHOOSE TO WORK WITH US.

on the M25 and one on the M1. James Hookham, head of transport policy at the Freight Transport Association, said that the Budget announcement was "the end of conventional road building as we know it. Tuesday was the worst day for Britain's

infrastructure since the Romans left." There are now 37 schemes including 25 worth £500m announced by the Chancellor in the Design, Finance, Build and Operate programme, in which private finance is sought to build roads.

However, the road lobby aries this scheme is untested and is paid for by the taxpayer in the long run through "shadow" tolls, the contractor receiving a fee for every vehicle using the road. "It's just a way of getting roads on the never-never," Mr

PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE

Ministers prepare for project bids worth £14bn

Public Policy Editor

Details of the £14bn worth of private finance contracts which the Government hopes to have in place in little more than three years' time were released vesterday as ministers moved to meet criticism that the initiative has produced delays in capital projects and unacceptable bidding costs for the private sector.

The schemes, if approved. will commit the Government to billions of pounds more in revenue expenditure in future years, with the running cost of an average project crudely estimated by the Treasury to be between two and four times the

In total, according to Sir the Government's Private Finance Panel, well over 1,000 potential schemes worth £25bn have now been identified ~ not all of which will come to fruition. But while the private sector will find that cash, the



t Lahoul

eve on tar

Michael Jack; Guidance issued for tender process

revenue costs of the services bought - from hospital buildings to private prisons and much else could total between £40bn and £60bn over their lifetime, according to the Treasury.

To underline the Government's determination to drive the initiative through, Michael Jack, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, issued guidance stating that no more than three or four bidders should be invited to tender for projects which range from roads and schools. to prisons and hospitals.

And between 5,000 and 10,000 civil servants are to be trained over the next 18 months in how to make the initiative

Sir Christopher's list includes 153 "A" priority projects with a capital value of almost £9.5bn, which he said could be signed by the end of 1996-97. A further 1,286 projects worth £17.5bm have been identified, he said.

which were "there to shoot at". Priority projects include a new £140m Norfolk and Norwich hospital to be built on a green-tield site, an £80m rationalisation in Bromley and a £180m new hospital in Edinburgh, all part of 23 NHS schemes worth almost £750m. Home Office projects include the privately financed

and run prisons at Bridgend, South Wales, and Fazakerley, Merseyside, agreed earlier this year at a capital cost of £50m each. A £500m redevelopment of Home Office radio communications tops its list.

Education projects include a £100m new university for the Guys/St Thomas's and King's medical school in London, and a £20m rebuild of Pimlico school, Westminster, part of 12 education department projects worth an estimated £291m. Transport includes 20 projects worth an estimated £4bn, dominated by the £2.7bn Channel Tunnel rail link.

In some areas, the initiative marks a watershed - with the private sector running prisons, for example. In the NHS, the Christopher Bland, chairman of announcement of the £35m South Buckinghamshire NHS Trust rebuild is a crucial step down the road that could lead to the NHS becoming solely a purchaser of health care which would largely be provided by the private sector.

Although Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, has said that staff directly employed by NHS Trusts will continue to provide direct patient care in the "overhelming majority" of cases, the dividing line between clinical and non-clinical care is not always clear cut. In addition, health authorities are already. on a small scale, letting NHS contracts to private hospitals.

Despite the massive sums potentially involved, the time scale of building means the Treasury expects actual private spending to run only at £600m this year, rising to £2.8bn by 1998-99 - while the Government's own capital spending will fall away from almost £21bn last year to just over £19bn, lcaving government-sponsored capital spending broadly level. The revenue consequences for government will be felt later as it buys in the services provided.

The key difference is that "the public sector no longer simply signs a contract to buy a prison, a train, or a computer system", Mr Jack said. Instead it pays to have specific services at guaranteed levels of performance over 20 or 30 years". In the case of the £400m London Underground train deal, for example, the contract specifies a level of reliability four times hetter than for existing fleets.

Mr Jack rejected criticism that the Treasury is simply buying capital projects and services "on tick", building up public spending problems for the future. The schemes were not financial leases, he said. They were about government procur ing services to defined outputs with the private sector using its expertise to deliver them in the most cost-effective way possible

The diverse nature of the contracts means break points and therefore the public sector's long-term commitment to them varies. For instance, the Northern Line tube-train contract is initially for 20 years when the trains have an expected life of 36 years. In the case of prisons and roads, the assets transfer to the public sector at the end of the contract.

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ARTER THE BUDGET

INHERITANCE TAX

'Careless' changes make life worth living

STEVE LODGE

The timescale of the Budget move to increase the inheritance tax threshold was yesterday branded as "carclessness" reminiscent of the government clampdown on "fat-cat" share options earlier this year.

Tax and financial planning experts also questioned whether this and another change aimed at helping the savers of "middle Britain" would hit their

'One thing we're all up in arms about is that the increase doesn't come in until April," Tim Jones, senior manager at accountants Binder Hamlyn,

The Budget proposed to increase the inheritance tax threshold by 30 per cent so that estates of less than £200,000 would be free of the tax, which bites at 40 per cent on anything over the threshold. Until April the tax-free limit will stay at the current £154,000. The change will offer a tax saving of £18,400 to all estates over £200,000.

"Basically it's hard luck if you die between now and April," Mr Jones said. "This move betrays a certain carelessness, like that on share options [when moves to hit "fat cats" also impacted on low-paid supermarket checkout workers]. It is the winter. There could be quite a cull if there was a flu epidemic. The Treasury said that the

changes to the threshold level were planned for April because that is when the tax year changes and that is the date for implementation of most of the Budget changes. It said the detail of the proposal would not be published until the new year, as part of the Finance Bill to bring the Budget into law.

Mr Jones added that an increase to £200,000 in the taxfree limit "was not as dramatic as it first looked. This helps the rich, but it's not an awful lot of help for middle England."

A parent's house is counted in the estate towards this limit as well as other assets. "This still leaves a lot of families with houses in the [inheritance tax] net," Dawn Nicholson, private client tax partner at accountants Ernst & Young, said.

Ms Nicholson said that while people might call inheritance tax avoidable, it was only possible to escape the tax not to the extent that individuals could give away assets seven years before death. But parents giving the family home to children was not tax-efficient if any parent continue to live in it.

However, Ms Nicholson noted the Chancellor's comment that the increase would take 7,500 estates a year out of the inheritance tax net and that a separate measure to exempt un-quoted investments from inheritance tax would help family

The exemption could also hoost investment interest in companies quoted on the new Aim stock market and the Enterprise Investment Scheme. a high-risk successor to the previously-abolished Business Expansion Scheme.

A number of financial advisers also noted that the benefit of the cut in tax on savings to 20 per cent would only be marginal for most retired people those the Chancellor suggested he was targeting in the savings' spects of his Budget.

While basic-rate taxpayers stand to benefit from the cut in tax on interest from savings, "90 per cent of the [retired] population get 90 per cent of their income from pensions", Mr Jones said . Pensions continue to be taxed at 25 per cent for basic-rate taxpayers. Higher rate taxpayers do not benefit from the Budget savings tax cut - they will still pay 40 per cent tax.

For higher rate tax-paying pensioners the move was "no good". Mr Jones said to "really benefit" a retired couple might need invested assets of £1m. In that case they might be able to get another £1,000 each out of the tax change. But that will only help a minority with substantial income-producing assets they could "juggle".
"And for the under-45s, with

negative equity, struggling with a family, there's little in the change [for them]," he said.



Cold comfort: Few pensioners will benefit from the cut in tax on savings while inheritance changes are delayed to April Photograph: David Rose

HEALTH COVER

Exemption for loan insurance helps millions

NIC CICUTTI

More than 10 million people who insure against sickness or unemployment when taking out personal loans are not to be taxed on the benefits they receive, the Inland Revenue has announced.

The reprieve was part of the Chancellor's Budget statement on Tuesday and followed a bitter political row in May, when Kenneth Clarke was forced into a humiliating retreat on mortgage protection cover, only to discover that some of his of- first 12 months. ficials were still senarately ing to tax loan insurance.

Had their plans taken effect, policy holders who lost their jobs would have found shortfalls of up to 25 per cent in the cover they thought they had taken out with insurers.

Mr Clarke's retreat from taxing benefits was welcomed yesterday by Pinnacle Insurance, one of the top providers in this field: "We think it is right that the Government should have confirmed a position that had applied in principle since the confusion that took place in

May," a spokesman said.
"Ending the uncertainty means that more people will be prepared to protect themselves, which is what this Government has been encouraging ...'

Total annual premiums paid for loan protection cover are about £16n. Cover for a £5,000 loan costs between £15 and £20 a month, with up to half of all borrowers choosing to take to 60 days after becoming un-

about 1.35 million policy holders, the Government also announced that permanent health insurance (PHI) pay-outs will not be taxed when people become unemployed as a result of

replace wages lost when a person becomes permanently ill or disabled, were taxed after the

The tax relief or a decision earlier this year by the Department of Social Security to replace invalidity benefits with a new category of incapacity benefits. Critics have argued that the move, which took place in April, was aimed at denying benefits to some 400,000 disabled claimants.

Pay-outs are triggered when a person is still not working 30 employed

As an additional boost to

Until now benefits, which

Insurance companies said vesterday the decision means that from April next year basic rate taxpayers would receive an extra boost to their PHI policies of between 20 and 30 per cent after 12 months. Alternatively the cost of premiums would fall by the same amount. Savings would be greater for higher rate taxpayers.

Graham Clark, deputy actuary at Swiss Re, which sells PHI cover said: "In many ways, this is a reflection of the Chancellor's announcement in the Budget of a partnership between the state and the insurance industry ... We hope this will give a major boost to the market."

FAMILY BUSINESSES

Concession greeted as spur to growth

ROGER TRAPP

The Chancellor's decision to exempt minority shareholdings in family businesses from inheritance tax was yesterday hailed as a significant contribution towards the Government's declared aim of promoting enterprise.

Peter Leach, chairman of

the centre for family business at accountants BDO Stoy Hayward, said it meant that there were no longer any "blockages to passing on wealth".

He predicted that the measure, which could affect thousands of people when it comes into force from 6 April 1996, would work in two main ways. First, it would encourage "intergenerational" share transfers, which bave traditionally not been as popular in Britain as in the United States, Germany and elsewhere, and so stimulate the creation of long-lasting companies. Second. because shareholders would no longer be inclined to downplay the value of the stakes for fear of creating a tax liability, it would

encourage more active trading

Ian Peters, head of small business services at National Westminster Bank, also welcomed the measure, pointing out that research carried out by the bank in the summer found that one-third of owner-managers intended to sell their businesses, with the inheritance tax position a prime consider-

The parallel measure of reducing the qualifying age for capital gains tax retirement relief from 55 to 50 is also being seen as an important move.

Not only does it take account of the trend for people to cease working earlier than in previous generations, it also provides an environment in which an entrepreneur can build up a business over 10 years and then use the proceeds of selling it to set up another, so promoting enterprise while rewarding it. This might stimulate the growing market for "business angels", or private individuals who typically invest tens of thousands of pounds in private companies.

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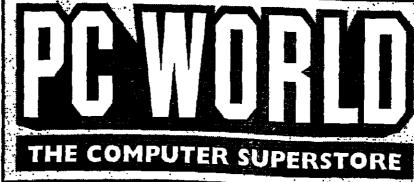


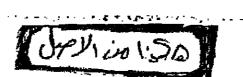
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Serbs get ready to quit Sarajevo

EMMA DALY llidza. near Sarajevo

Safety guarantees from the Bosnian government have done little to calm the fears of some 50,000 Serbs living in four suburbs of Sarajevo due to return to government rule under the Dayton peace plan. But nor have they inspired much thought of rebellion; the option of flight is favoured over fight in Ilidza, west of the capital.

Some 3,000 to 4,000 separatist Serbs gathered in the suburb yesterday to demand that the world rewrite the peace deal. "Sarajevo is Serb," they cried. "We will never leave." But despite the banners - "Good fences make good friends" was the strangest - the writing is on the wall, and the people of

Ilidza know it. On Tuesday, President Alija Izetbegovic assured women and children they would be safe under his control, but did not extend the guarantee to their men – and in Ilidza, every man is a soldier. The Serb leadership is stoking such fears, warning of a "second Beirut" if the city is not divided.

Yesterday the Bosnian Foreign Minister, Muhamed Sacirbey, tried again: "All civilians

within a united Sarajevo ... will have their safety guaranteed by our government," he said. We will not engage in trying to find out who has been a soldier and who was not. Of course there will be criminal responsibilities for those who engaged

in war crimes." But who is to make that distinction? "My husband was a soldier for four years," said Sretanka, a clerk at the demon-stration, "My safety is guaranteed but not my husband's. How can we live under their au-thority?" But if it was? "We would say, thank you, but no."

One of the few to express any hope at all was Mirko Knezevie - perhaps because two of his brothers have lived safely across the line throughout the war. "I think I would stay if there were to be a joint civilian authority and an open city and we could co-operate in all aspects of economic life," he said,

Mr Sacirbey has sought to en-

courage such thinking, emphasising the huge flow of money the city expects after the war. "What important is that the people on the other side of the line understand that it is to their benefit to be part of a united Sarajevo," he told reporters, "They have not been sold out as a part of a peace

agreement. We want them to be sharing in the benefits of a united Sarajevo because they are a part of Sarajevo,"

But talk among the crowd was mostly of exodus, despite the best efforts of the organisers. "The politicians can leave, but we will not," said one speak-er, to cheers and applause. Citizens took turns on the platform, flanked by Serb flags and a portrait of St George slaying the dragon (apparently symbolic of Serb suffering). It was a new kind of Bosnian

Serb offensive, "These people know that they cannot fight for Sarajevo with arms, but perhaps politically, like this," said one erb official from headquarters in Pale. "Otherwise they will all The committee organised to

protest against the Dayton plan

had invited journalists to visit llidza. Many of those at the demonstration are already refugees, yet most would rather live in permanent exile than try to return home. According to the UN, 25 per cent of the 100,000 Serbs in greater Sarajevo still live in government-held territory. The statistic counts for nothing against the propaganda and the fear; some are already house-hunting in Pale.



Scrum down: A rugby game yesterday between a Bosnian side from Zenica and an Anglo-French team of UN peace-keepers turned into a brawl. 'It wasn't great rugby, but the lads had a good time of it,' said Major Tom Ellen, a British officer. Zenica (quartered shirts) won 8-7.

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Perry hails Russian-US troops deal

SARAH HELM

The first troops in the Nato-led peace implementation force are likely to arrive in Bosnia early next week, after Russia and Nato yesterday proclaimed a "historic" agreement enabling Russian troops to serve in the force, and giving Moscow a liaison role in command.

The agreement is not only crucial to peace in Bosnia, but also has far-reaching implications for East-West relations.

William Perry, the US Defense Secretary, said: "The significance goes far beyond Bosnia. It promises to form the basis of a new security dialogue between East and West, between Nato and Russia. This emerging new relationship between Nato and Russia will make Europe more stable and more secure.

The deal means that deployment to Bosnia can now begin, with a group of 1.300 "enabling troops - including 600 British - expected to arrive as

early as Monday or Tuesday. Despite the wave of optimism. however, serious questions remain about how the implementation plan will work. So far there is little progress on setting up a civilian command to administer the massive reconstruction task. And Nato yesterday ruled out taking on the mission of arresting war criminals, saying it is still considering whether its forces should have powers of arrest in some circumstances. How to disarm and "rehalance" Croats. Muslims and Serbs is still under discussion.

Doubts also remain about whether the alliance will be able to fulfil its political commitment to pull out all forces after 12 months. Michael Portillo, the British Secretary of State for Defence, insisted yesterday: There is a clear commitment that this operation will last 12 months and we will all deploy together and all withdraw to-

The agreement on Russian participation, struck between Mr Perry and Pavel Grachev. the Russian Defence Minister. ends weeks of fraught negotiation over how to give Moscow

a political role in controlling the force. The solution arrived at means Moscow will be consulted by the 16-member alliance before decisions are taken by the North Atlantic Council, Nato's ruling body of ambassadors in Brussels. In what is called a "16 plus one" formula, the Russians may also

be able to raise points at the

council's discussions. In return, Russian troops will serve, in ef-

feet, under US command. Although Moscow had demanded a larger role, and would have preferred a United Nations umbrella for the operation, Mr Grachev hailed the plan, praising Nato's new cooperation with Moscow. From now, he said, there were questions which cannot be solved.

A total of 15 Nato nations will contribute troops to the implementation force, and 12 non-Nato countries, including Russia, have agreed to join. Nato leaders said yesterday the force would supervise the separation of the warring forces, their withdrawal to barracks, the setting up of civil institutions and the conduct of elections.

The alliance leaders are clearly concerned about the delay in appointing a "high representative" to oversee the civilian tasks such as reconstruction, refugee return and election preparation. Carl Bildt, the EU's delegate to the former Yugoslavia, is the favourite, but dispute over how tasks should be assigned is holding im agreement. The alliance is also embarrassed over the continuing failure to appoint of Nato secretary-general following the resignation of Willy Claes. It now seems certain that the force will deploy with no secretary-general in place.

Nato discussed yesterday calls for the arming and training of Bosnian forces, as a means of ensuring a permanent balance of power once the peace forces pull out. The alliance appears to ruling out rearming the Bosnians, and favours disarming the stronger armies, but new discussions on all arms control issues are now scheduled to take place in

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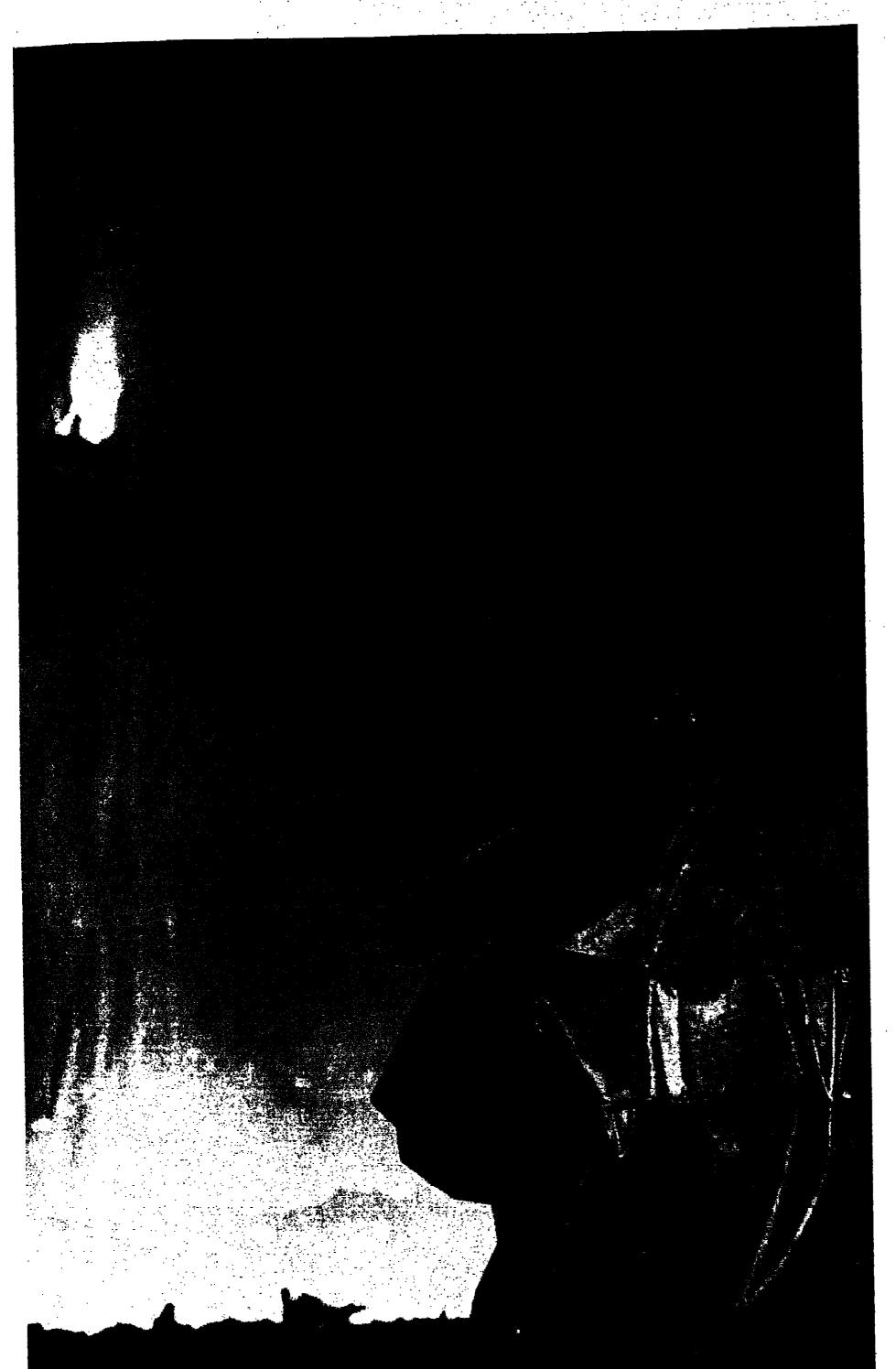
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Trains halt as France takes axe to branch lines

MARY DEJEVSKY

French railwaymen, who have been on strike since last Thursday evening, hardened their action yesterday, halting all mainline and suburban services across the country and halving the number of Eurostar trains between London and Paris and Brussels. Their leaders had parted angrily with management representatives late the night before, after a fourth meeting to discuss a restructuring plan had failed to produce any agreement.

Where previous days had seen between one in four and one in six inter-city trains running, yesterday the lines were deserted. Even the high-speed trains, whose sleek lines, fabulous speeds and punctuality have combined to become a symbol of French success.

remained in their sidings. The railwaymen began their strike as part of last Friday's national day of protest against the government's plans to reform the social security system. The railwaymen had an additional grievance, which encouraged them to prolong last week's strike "indefinitely". This was earning 30,(WX) francs a month the government's five-year for a 35-hour week, and all dri-

"development project" for the railways, called the "1996-2000 plan", which could do to French railways something akin to what Richard Beeching did to Britain's railways 32 years ago. France still operaies 20,000

miles of railway lines, a network little reduced since the 1960s. The political importance of the countryside, regional fieldoms of politicians, a reluctance to take on the unions and the decision of successive governments to keep local services, in part to offset the unpopularity of the new high-speed train lines in the rural areas they scarred, all militated against a Beechingstyle reform.

Now, though, the government and SNCF management. headed by Jean Bergougnoux. have decided to call time. SNCF has been described by the Transport Minister, Bernard Pons, as "the most indebted, most subsidised company in France", with an accumulated debt of 175bn francs (£21bn) and an annual government subsidy running at Fr50bn. Despite a 40 per cent (70,000) reduction in staff over the past 10 years. total staff costs have risen, with the élite high-speed train drivers



Fired up: French railway worker holding a flare in front of a high-speed TGV at Lille after it was blocked by demonstrators

vers entitled to retire at 50. The most hotly contested of the restructuring plan's elements do not concern working conditions but the regionalisation of many lines. Thousands of miles would be lopped off the national network and trans-

Doctor Beeching comes to France

ferred to the regions, initially with an accompanying subsidy. Railwaymen believe many lines would be closed, causing the eventual loss of thousands of jobs: townspeople and villagers see the end of their most visible link with the world. The

south-west of France and the Massif Central would be worst affected, with even large towns possibly losing their lines.

The least commercial branch line is a 30-mile stretch from Auxerre to Etang in north-central France, which loses Fr45m a year and carries an average 8 passengers a train. The second worst is a 50-mile branch line from Marvejols in the southern Auvergne which makes a loss of Fr22m a year. Its infrequent trains carry an average of only 14 passengers.

Other measures include a standardisation of management structures across the regions entailing more job losses - and the separation, to comply with European Union regulations, of operating and infrastructure costs. SNCF will also be expected to market itself more energetically to reverse a decline in traffic in recent years.

a very familiar ring. The rail campaigners cite the social value of the railways in country areas, the need to improve services if people are to use them, and the environmental friendliness of rail transport.

guments on both sides will have

Government officials argue that annual receipts are hardly more than the government subsidy and that there are many areas where coaches, so far a comparatively underdeveloped sector in France, would be cheaper. They say that fewer debts would mean more investment in services.

Ministers stress that there are no plans to privatise the railways, as in Britain or Germany. SNCF, they say, will remain a single, nationalised company. The regionalisation of branch lines, however, could amount to the same thing, except that local authorities rather than central government will have to

Pretoria — President Nelson Mandela named his long-time friend and fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu to head a new Truth Commission, considered crucial to racial reconciliation in South Africa. The 17-member panel will gather evidence of apartheid-era crimes committed by government security forces and anti-apartheid groups such as Mr Mandela's African National Congress, and recommend if people confess-ing their roles should receive amnesty. Former white rulers, including Deputy President F W de Klerk, fear it will focus on the apartheid police and military in-

INBRIEF Tutu heads Truth

Commission

both sides. Greek PM hangs on Athens - The Greek Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou, who remained on life support systems, was said to be in a dif-ficult condition, but doctors

stead of dealing equally with

denied reports that he was clinically dead. .4P Suu Kyi snub

Rangoon - Burma's dissident leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, said her National League for Democracy would not join efforts by Burma's military rulers to shape a new constitution. Instead, she demanded that the generals begin dialogue with the democratic groups.

Gesture to PLO

Hebron - Israel handed over the body of Ismail Hassan, a PLO guerrilla, to his family, 18 years after he was killed in a clash with the army. Reuter

Air show of force

take the political flak for

SNCF's total debt, with more in

return for productivity im-provements in 1996. Railway-

men's representatives rejected

the proposals, insisting they wanted the preservation of their

current pension rights intact, and that Fr37bn would hardly

Railwaymen at Strasbourg

vesterday said they would return

to work, as increasing exasper-

dent the Fr175bn debt.

privatisation or closure.

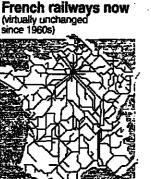
Hong Kong — China's air force On Tuesday, the government offered two olive branches to is planning a large-scale training exercise aimed at pressur-ing Taiwan before it holds its the unions in the form of an assurance that the "special nafirst direct presidential election ture" of railwaymen's pension next March. Ming Pao newsparights would be preserved and an offer to take over Fr37bn of per reported.

Red tape clipped

Washington — The Senate voted to abolish the Interstate Commerce Commission, the oldest federal regulatory agency in the US, and transfer its functions to the Transportation Department.

Dingo baby plea

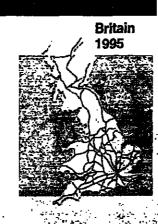
Canberra — Michael and Lindy Chamberlain, whose baby daughter Azaria disappeared at Ayers Rock 15 years ago in one of Australia's most bizarre mysteries, asked a court to rule officially that the baby was snatched by a dingo. Reuter



France after threatened cuts?



Britain 1959



To anyone in Britain, the ar-

ation among commuters sug-gested the strike could soon be very unpopular. Mostly, however, the strike remained solid, with government, management and unions waiting to see who

Nice try, but it won't keep the giraftes out.





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Vote-rigging claims: Opponents of the government complain political issues are elbowed aside by naked pursuit of power

Money calls the tune in Egyptian election

The cop was grinning. In riot visor, holding a rifle, standing next to his armoured vehicle, he didn't seem too worried about yesterday's elections.

Just down the street from the Sayeda Zeinab mosque, a fat man in a brown jacket – a sup-porter of Hosni Mubarak's National Democratic Party (439 candidates) - was slapping the face of a follower of the Liberal Party (102 candidates). The two men, followed by a crowd of youths, slapped their way down the street, past the shops selling oranges and car spare parts and chickens and spanners and grapes until the Liberal vot-er jumped into a minibus and made his getaway.

"He claimed we were pushing ballots for our man into the ballot box," a polling official for the NDP candidate, Fathi Srour, explained with a smile almost as broad as the police- the spanner shop owner pointman's. "We would never do ed out in Sayeda Zeinab, are

da Zeinab - whose slums contain 3 million of Cairo's 22 million people - the NDP men roared with laughter. It was the same all over Cairo. In el-Sarabiya, an independent candidate was so enraged that polling officials might have rigged his local election that he drove his car into the voting station, injuring several people.

It may have been exciting in the Gharbiya province out-side Cairo, the man in charge of a polling station was shot dead after accusations of vote-rigging – but it was a curious mirror image of the concerns voiced by Westerners about Egypt's parliamentary elections. For while human rights organ-isations have been complaining about the government's arrest of 600 Muslim Brotherhood supporters, Egyptians yesterday treated their elections with a more robust if equally cynical response. Egyptian elections, as

most quoted and irrepressible of all Egyptian journalists (but no voter yesterday) who held up an opposition newspaper which bore a picture of Fouad Srag el-Din, leader of the opposition Wafd party (184 candidates). "I like Srag el-Din very much, he is a friend and we were in prison together [under Sadat]," the legendary Mr Heikal announced. "But he is 91. And

look at the headline of his ar-

ticle: 'A New Today is Your Time

for Change.' In the article, he says, 'Let us lead the nation to

the doors of the 21st century.'

And it is painfully true that most of the political leaders permitted to contest this election are old men; either that or sleek newcomers to the political process, anxious to demonstrate that their business acumen should be rewarded with social status. Two candidates, for example, have been

that." All around him in Saye- about money, not religion. abusing each other in paid ad And age, he should have vertisements in the pages of Al added. It was Mohamed Heikal. Ahram at a cost of perhans £80,000. Ibrahim Mustafa Kamel and Yassin Srag el-Din have been arguing about business dealings involving a bank in Kuwait, lawyers in Geneva and Zurich, gold-mining in Tanzania and corporations in Lugano and the Bahamas.

Mr Heikal summed it up:

"Ibrahim Mustafa Kamel is

noufiya, the village where he comes from," he said. "But what do the people of Milouf know of such things? Do they know where Lugano and Geneva are? This is the problem with these elections. We are supposed to be going to the future. The election is important. There are symptoms of a con-test - but they are not political. There are the families - the sons of older leaders - and those el-'ements who made money and are now trying to acquire po-



Voter's burden: An Egyptian mother takes her child with her to the ballot box yesterday

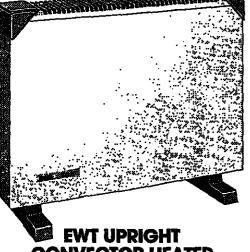
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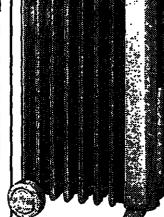
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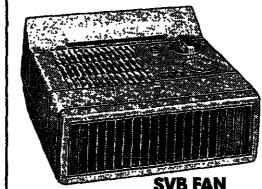
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Peking turns Tibet into stage to crown boy lama

TERESA POOLE Peking

With the Jhokang monastery in Lhasa lit up by state television as if it were a film set, senior officials from Peking presided vesterday over the theatrical seection, controlled by the Communist Party, of a reincarnated Panchen Lama, the second most boly figure in Tibetan

Despondent-looking monks sat chanting as Luo Gan, from China's State Council, applauded the drawing of lots from a golden urn and the choice of six-year-old Gyaincain Norbu as the "soul boy".

Peking's decision to orches-trate the identification of a new child Panchen Lama confirms that the Chinese have embarked on a new policy of confrontation in Tibet. Dozens of monks have been arrested since last May, when the spiritual leader of Tibet, the Dalai Lama, named another six-yearold, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, as

In its most vicious attack agency yesterday launched a smear campaign against Gedhun. The boy's parents "were notorious among their neighbours for speculation, deceit and



scrambling for fame and profit,", and had lied about Gedhun's date of birth. "The boy himself once drowned a dog, and ... such an action is a heinous crime in the eyes of the Buddha," Xinhua added. Gedhun and his parents are believed to be in detention in Peking, and are likely to remain so.

The Dalai Lama last night issued a statement from India saying that the safety of Gedhun was "of particular concern to nate that the Chinese governvet, the official Xinhua news ment has chosen to politicise the issue and to appoint a rival Panchen Lama.

The harsh reality of Chinese control of Tibet was there for of barley cakes into the air

television film of the spectacle on the evening news. Chinese officials sat on chairs, looking down on the monks sitting on the floor as if to emphasis their disdain. Security officials could be seen everywhere.

Peking's biggest problem in staging the drawing of lots was in finding a monk with enough status to perform the ceremony of picking from the urn one of three ivory sticks, each with the name of one boy candidate. In the end it promoted a monk, Bomi Rimpoche, to the title of Ganden Tripa, an academic position, and got him to perform

According to Xinhua, "at the first glimmer of dawn the ancient city of Lhasa looked beautiful and tranquil". In front of the assembled monks, all of whom could be seen on television wearing red security passes, Bomi Rimpoche, 77. prostrated himself and then drew one ivory stick from the golden urn, handing it to officials who proclaimed Gyaincain

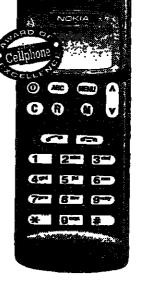
The little boy was then crowned with a yellow hat and led around as he offered long white scarves to the Chinese of ficials. The monks threw pieces everyone to see yesterday on a with little enthusiasm.







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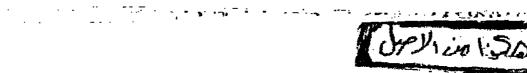
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Ogoni spirits unbroken by new repression

A pall of fear hangs over this land, still blighted two years after the departure of the oil giant Shell by oil spills and the ugliness of rusting pipes crisscrossing the fields.

es pursuit of pop)

Repression in Ogoniland has intensified after the execution of the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight fellow Ogoni civil rights activists by the Nigerian military regime.

At military checkpoints along

main roads local people are being harassed and money ex-torted from them. Travel is restricted and public meetings have been banned. Supporters of Ken Saro-Wiwa's Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Mosop) claim that more than 50 teachers, pastors and other prominent community members have been arrested and detained in the past two weeks.

"People here are terribly frightened since the executions," Benjamin, a primary school teacher in the village of Kegbara Dere, known locally as K Dere, said. "The place is now full of the military and we're afraid they could kill us at any

This is the heart of Ogoniland, a rural backwater populated by farmers and fishermen. K Dere is one of the main villages in the Gokana area, where the eight men who were hanged alongside Ken Sam-Wiwa cume from. It is also the home area of the four Mosop members for whose murder last year the

Ogoni Nine were convicted.

"We are suffering a lot now," Lekyce, a teacher colleague of Benjamin and, like him, a sup-porter of Mosop, said. "The Ogoni people are not free to express their views. Mosop has been driven underground. There are soldiers and government agents all around. In the Gokana area alone there are now 3,000 soldiers. If you say you're a supporter of Ken Saro-



Witness.



David Orr reports on the Nigerian army's brutal reign in Ken Saro-Wiwa's home territory

Wiwa you will be arrested and jailed. We're not even allowed to mourn his death."

Benjamin is preparing a re-port after a recent meeting beween the headmasters of Ogoni schools and Major Ohi Abel Umahi, who in effect rules Ogoniland as head of the Internal Security Force in the

region.

Major Obi has issued a directive prohibiting staff meetings and bringing all school activities under the military. Priests have been warned that their sermons are being monitored and that any mention of Saro-Wiwa will be punished.

The military fears that teachers and other educated people in Ogoniland are fomenting unrest. Nuns at one convent were so traumatised following a visit in recent days by the State Security Service that they were too frightened to speak to the Independent.

Major Obi denies that Mosop is being outlawed and said the organisation's claims were propaganda to discredit the Nigerian government.

Ogoniland is a small densey populated region of half a million people on whose behalf an environmental and economic rights campaign was led by Saro-Wiwa. He claimed that more than three decades of oil exploration and drilling by Shell had devastated the land and deprived the people of wealth in which they should have shared. His calls for self-determination and a greater share of oil revenue from the government proved to be his undoing.





Polluted: This is a land that is still blighted by oil spills and ugliness

Though the environmental degradation is perhaps not as bad as Mosop would like to make out, unwelcome reminders of Shell's operations still litter the lush landscape. At one location on the outskirts of K Derc, hissing gas leaks from a rusted well head. Not far away is another well head which started sceping oil into the ground last year. It stopped suddenly but locals fear it could start again at any time.

Shell said it was too dangerous for its staff to go into Ogoniland for repair work on oil

installations. The company said it used contractors for such jobs. Shell admits responsibilily for three-quarters of the oil spills in those parts of the Niger delta where it is still operating. But it claims that in the last eight years of its presence in Ogoniland, 69 per cent of oil spills there were caused by sabotage.
"We haven't seen the same

level of agitation against Shell and the government as in Ogoniland." Egbert Imomoh, general manager of Shell's eastern division in Nigeria, said. "The

further than those of other minorities. There was widespread sabotage in Ogoniland and we don't pay compensation in such cases. Our staff and equipment were facing so much danger that in the end we decided to withdraw.

Shell has in recent years mounted a vigorous community aid programme in an effort to win over inhabitants of the oil producing areas. School blocks, health centres and roads have been built. And significant sums of money paid Ogonis' demands have gone out where oil production

operations are taking place. The people of K Dere, however, claim that all they have got out of Shell has been one school block and some classroom equipment. They say that only one local man was employed in a senior staff position by Shell.

"We used no violence against Shell employees," Benjamin insisted. "But if Shell comes back then things could get violent. Mosop has always been a peaceful organisation. Although it's been suppressed, it's still in our minds. We now feel very aggressive towards Shell."

For its part, the world's largest oil company has resolved not to return to Ogoniland without the good will of its inhabitants. Shell, which operates in the

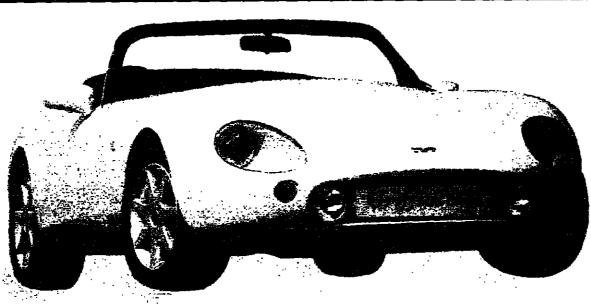
Niger delta as a joint venture partner with the Nigerian government and two other European oil companies, is regarded as a collaborator with successive repressive regimes including that of General Sani Abacha who has been in power for two years and is set to stay for at least another three.

The Nigerian government is

Photograph: Tim Lambon/EPL

conducting a policy of wilful neglect in Ogoniland. Schools, health centres and roads are in an appalling state of disrepair. Services such as electricity and telephones are largely nonexistent.

The people face levels of persecution which are extreme even by the abysmal standards of the current military regime. There is little evidence, however, that the Ogonis have been cowed by the execution of their hero, Ken Saro-Wiwa. If anything, they are more ebullient



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Tax and spending policies 'aim to make

INTRODUCTION

The British economy has now been growing for almost four years. The recovery has created more than half a million new jobs. We have more people in work than any other major country in the European Union. Inflation is enjoying its best run for almost 50 years.

All the major Western economies have slowed this year but our recovery remains stronger than most. The IMF has forecast that next year we will be top, with Germany, of the

G7 growth league table. Few Chancellors have delivered their Budget against a background of such strong economic fundamentals. But getting this far has not been easy. It has required tough decisions on tax and spending over the past three years.
This Budget builds on the

hard-won gains this Government has made, and keeps Britain on course to be the enterprise centre of Europe.

A Britain that creates more jobs and generates the greater wealth and personal prosperity in which all can share. A Britain in which everyone can keep more of what they earn or save to spend as they choose not as the state chooses. A Britain where more money is spent on the things that everyone cares about - our schools, our hospitals, our police.

This Budget addresses the aspirations of the people of this country in an economically and socially responsible way. It controls public spending overall while shifting more money to-wards schools, hospitals and the police. It keeps government borrowing on a clear downward path and fiscal policy tight so



that the recovery will be sustained. And it cuts taxes.

ECONOMY

The Recovery In 1994 the economy grew by around 4 per cent, fuelled by the success of British exporters overseas. No mature industrial economy could easily sustain these rates of growth without risking a rise in inflation. That is why towards the end of last

year I raised interest rates. In the event, slower growth in the world economy has reduced the growth of British exports. British exporters are well placed to compete in markets overseas. For example, we now have a current account surplus with the so-called tiger economies of South-east Asia. But our key markets in America and Europe are growing by less than they were in 1994.

Growth will be sustained because the fundamentals of the economy are strong as a result of our economic policies. We have low inflation, sound publie finances and more competitive businesses. The change in the pace of growth this year is not unique to Britain and has been seen in the US. Germany and elsewhere. No recovery ever proceeds at a constant rate of growth throughout. In fact, this recovery is proving to be the steadiest seen in Britain

for a generation. Many commentators confidently predicted that the highor tax and lower public spending of the last three Budgets would knock the recovery off-track. They were wrong. Consumer spending has been on a firm upward trend since the recovery began. With the tax increases behind us, consumer spending should grow further next year and the year after.

Businesses have responded to the economic recovery by investing for the future. Manufacturing investment has grown by 12 per cent over the past year. The conditions for further increases in investment - low inflation, low interest rates, low corporate tax rates, and healthy company balance

sheets - remain in place. For the economy as a whole, the forecasts published in the Red Book are for growth this year of 2.75 per cent, and 3 per cent in 1996.

My last two Budgets have strengthened the foundations of the economy and put the recovery onto a secure footing. I have reduced public spending and borrowing plans to create more room for the wealth-creating part of the economy to grow. I have helped businesses. And I have improved the working of the labour market.

The decisions I took and the policies I pursued in those Budgets have helped to reduce pressure on me to increase interest rates further, without jeopardising my inflation target.

Inflation has picked up over the past year as the impact of last year's world-wide increase in commodity prices has fed through the price chain. But these cost pressures are now

easing. Underlying inflation may be close to its peak and should resume its downward path during next year. It remains on course to meet the Government's target of 2.5 per cent or below by the end of this Parliament. The public finances

We have got the public finances under control. The Government has delivered last year's tough public spending plans. Indeed, we expect to undershoot them. However, tax receipts have come in lower than expected this year, partly due to lower inflation and to lower

The Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) is the difference between two enormous numbers so that forecasts for public borrowing have always been notoriously difficult to make. I have, therefore, been cautious and prudent this year in setting out the latest projections. I now expect the PSBR to be £29bn in the current financial year. That will be £7bn less than last year and £16 bn less than two years ago.

Overall, our decisions on public spending and the tax measures I shall describe shortly will be broadly neutral in their impact on the downward path for the PSBR over the nextthree years. This downward profile for government borrowing sets the overall framework for my Budget this year. I am not prepared to take any action which would put at risk my fiscal target of moving towards balance in the mediumterm. I had to make the difficult igements and decisions about the balance between the levels

of taxation and public spending. This year, as in previous years, I have made those judgements and taken those decisions with the dominant priority of improving the long-term health of the British economy. Our tax and spending policies must promote our aim of becoming the enterprise centre of Europe.

PUBLIC SPENDING

In each of my three Budgets I have reduced public spending plans substantially. This year, I have once again kept a firm grip on public spending, helped by my Right Honorable Friend, the Chief Secretary. My Right Honorable Friend and I have at least three things in common. We have both been in charge of big spending departments so we are both noachers turned gamekeepers. Neither of us could be described as adopting the slashand-burn approach to public spending. But we are both convinced that the share of national income taken by the state in public expenditure must be reduced to below 40 per cent if we

are to remain competitive. It is essential to give the private sector more room to gencrate the jobs, the investment and the wealth that will make people and their families more prosperous. This goes hand in hand with our commitment to a modern welfare state.

In the rapidly changing world of technological advance and a more flexible labour market, the British people need to be prepared and equipped to embrace change in a flexible way. They will be more willing to do this if they know that high-quality schools, health care and a safety net for the unemployed. the disabled and the old are there if and when they need them. That is why we are modemising the welfare state so that it underpins the British economy, and does not undermine it. We are changing the welfare state to ensure that it serves the

needs of today not of 40 years

And privately financed projects will bring nearly £700m of extra investment over the next three years without in any way undermining the fundamental principle that health care should be free at the point of service. This money is on top of the additional £1bn public expenditure and it all represents additional resources for our free NHS.

This Budget allows for spending on schools to rise next year. This year I will go much further This Budget allows for spend-



ago. That it serves those who genuinely need it. And that it is affordable to the taxpayer. These objectives are being achieved in the face of huge pressures for higher public

spending year after year. But this Budget proves that we can have good quality public services and spending control. Unlike our critics we understand that good services depend not only on how much you spend, but on the way that you spend it.

This realistic but socially

responsible approach has guided me this year. I have limited the growth of spending overall. But I have also provided more money for the public services the British people care about most -schools, hospitals and the police. To pay for this the Chief Secretary and I have found savings elsewhere from our continuing drive to modernise government. Let me deal first with the priority areas where I have been able to increase

spending plans. National Health Service We are continuing to deliver our commitment to increase NHS spending in real terms. That is what we said we would do and

we are doing it. Public spending on the NHS will increase by over £1bn next year. In addition, patients will



efficiency, including reductions in NHS management costs. All these savings - around £650m next year - will be ploughed back into patient care.

We have already increased spending per pupil by some 50 per cent in real terms since 1979. We devote a higher proportion of our public spending to edu-cation than Japan, Germany and we have the highest graduation rate of any major European country. We have achieved

schools - the introduction of the national curriculum, more rigorous schools inspection, measures to tackle failing schools, greater choice for parents, better vocational education, and extension of free nursery education. This is not just good for our children, it is good for our future and good for our economy.

many improvements in our

The plans I am publishing today allow for an increase in spending on schools of £878m. Within this, over £770m will be channelled through the local authority settlement. Parents will rightly expect local authorities to carry this funding through to school budgets and they should ask their local authorities how this extra money will be spent on their children. Police

Since 1979 spending on our police has almost doubled, even after allowing for inflation. Next year, the resources available to fight crime will be increased again. Money is being provided for an extra 5,000 police officers over the next three years. This is on top of the 32,000 increase in the police service since 1979. The plans also allow for an extra 10,000 closed circuit TV cameras in town centres and elsewhere.

I have found these resources for important programmes because we are changing government to make sure it meets the needs of people today, not of 20, 30 or 40 years ago. We are cut-ting government bureaucrary. cracking down on fraud, getting government out of activities it need not be involved in and using private sector skills and finance to provide better public

That is the hallmark of a government looking to the future needs of a modern industrial

Running costs In my last Budget I cut provision for central government running costs by 10 per cent in

on top of that. The cash cost of Whitehall will be £860m lower in three years time than it is today. In real terms, this represents savings of 12 per cent. which is equivalent to a saving

of nearly £2bu a year. But we must never delude ourselves that more resources for schools, hospitals and police as well as tax cuts can be paid for just by eliminating waste in the public sector. Life is not that simple. We have also had to look elsewhere. Social Security

Three years ago, before the Sec-retary of State for Social Security skilfully put in place a programme for long-term reform, we were expecting social security spending to grow by over 3 per cent per year in real terms. We now expect real growth in planned spending of around 1 per cent per year over the next three years. This reduction in growth will build up year on year to a cash saving of huge proportions. The changes are an assurance for future generations. We are going to leave our children a welfare system that works and

which they can afford. The Secretary of State for Social Security will announce the details of this year's settlement to the House tomorrow

(Wednesday).
The increases in social security spending next year will be well within the growth of the economy. We will ensure that all that spending represents legitimate spending on people in genuine need.

That is why my Right Hon-

orable Friend will give details of a further intensive campaign against fraud. He will also announce measures which will mean people who apply for asylum on arrival in the country will cease to receive benefils after an unfavourable

Steps to close the gap between single parent's benefit and those paid to other families. will also be announced. The right approach to single parents is neither to penalise them nor to favour them. The costs and responsibilities of having children are the sametor couples as they are for single people.

We intend to build on our previous measures to help more mothers move from benefit dependency into work. Mea-

sures to encourage work, including a further increase in the. childcare allowance in family credit from £40 to £60 a week, will be announced.

Next, housing benefit. The housing benefit system should not be an inducement for young people to leave their families before they need to. My Right Honorable Friend will announce measures to restrict the amount of housing benefit. paid to single people under 25 to a maximum that more sensibly reflects their circumstances. The benefit system should offer a real incentive to young people to rent within their means, improving their

incentives to work. It is by restricting spending in these areas that we can protect people in greatest need and stand by our pledges on pen-sions and child benefit. This Government has acted deciunder control. Let no one un-Measures announced in my three Budgets will reduce planned social security expenditure by £5 bn a year by the end of the century.

Other programmes Social security is a good example of how more money can be found to be spent on areas we



care most about, by trimming back elsewhere. In practically every department we have found significant savings while protecting the frontline of pubic service delivery.

We have found further efficiency savings in defence, while maintaining our commitment to a strong frontline. And in a tight public spending round, the allocation for bilateral aid is likely to be little changed from that set out in last year's departmental report. British bilateral aid is internationally recognised for its high quality, and for the substantial share going to the poorest countries in Africa and Asia. This will continue.

We are also doing more to get the Government out of activities it simply need not be in-volved in. The Secretary of State for Defence is today announcing his intention to transfer ownership of the MoD married quarters estate to the private sector. This will improve the management of the estate. We also plan to privatise the Housing Corporation Loan Book, and to encourage banks to provide Student Loans.

Private Finance There are many services that the Government has a duty to ensure are provided as public services, but where private sector management skills and expertise can improve delivery.

This is where the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) comes in. Under the PFI the public sector does not simply sign a con-tract to buy a prison, a train or a computer system. It pays to have specific services supplied at guaranteed levels of performance-available prison places, trains running reliably on the Northern Line, National Insurance records kept up to date. The Government chooses the quality services the public require, and then goes out and acquires those services from private companies with the finance and expertise to deliver.

The key point is that the ini-tiative delivers infrastructure projects of higher quality at a lower overall cost to the British taxpayer. That is because the private sector puts its own money at risk and brings its own nanagement skills to bear.

The initiative means that better public services will be provided by better private means. We expect actual capital spending under the PFI to be around £2bn per year and rising over the next three years. We expect to have agreed contracts worth at least £14bn by the end of 1998-99.

This money is replacing oldstyle public-sector capital spending and can deliver big gains in value for money for the taxpayer. The PFI is delivering better quality projects. For example, the PFI contract for Northern Line trains specifies reliability levels nearly four times above the best fleet currently operating on London Underground. The service we will get from the new National Insurance records system could have cost up to twice what we will pay under the privately financed deal we have struck. As sively to put in place policies to a result of these flows of private bring social security spending finance, we have been able to find savings in publicly-financed derestimate what we have done. capital while maintaining high levels of investment activity andhigh-quality investment.

Four projects demonstrate the extent to which the PFI is spreading to all parts of govroment. First, I can announce a huge new package of privately financed roads, five new projects with a capital value totalling £500m. Second, the Secretary of State for Health has announced today that a £35m deal is going ahead to modernise two hospitals for the South Buckinghamshire NHS Trust. Third, we are tendering for the refur-bishment of Lowdham Grange prison, a £50m project to add to the two new prison-building contracts at Bridgend and Fazakerley, which will be signed shortly. Finally, full bids will be due on 5 December for the £45m water project in Inverness and Fort William, The Financial Secretary will publish more details tomorrow.

Challenge Funding Challenge Funding invites groups to compete for public funds to improve local services. That way the quality and value for money of public services is improved. In the first Single Reneration Budget Challenge Fund bidding round, every £1 of public money attracted another £1 of private funding. £250m has been made available for the

And over £300m of Challenge Funding will speed the transfer of deprived housing estates to ing associations and other private landlords.

Challenge Funding has enormous potential for projects of all kinds. The Secretary of State for the Environment is considering more Challenge Funding for a wider range of local authority capital provision, and will be making an announcement later this week.

Public spending as a share of national income varies yearly but under this Government's policies over the past 16 years the trend is downward. In the mid-1970s, total public spend-ing peaked at 47.25 per cent of national income. The next peak reached 45.5 per cent in the early 1980s; the last peak was 43.5 per cent in the recession of the early 1990s. I expect total pubhic spending to be 42 per cent of national income this year.

When I became Chancellor I said we should aim to push the ratio below 40 per cent and keep it there. The decisions I am announcing today will achieve that aim. The ratio will be be-low 40 per cent from 1997-98 onwards, far below any other major European country. Controlling public spending is crucial to our goal of making the economy more successful and the enterprise centre of Europe.

I have now taken £53bn out of projected public spending in my three Budgets. I judged this necessary to reduce government borrowing following the international recession of the 1990s. Even with the extra money for schools, hospitals and the



police, I now expect planned public spending to be kept broadly unchanged in real terms

over the next three years. When we first set out our public spending control totals three years ago, most pundits did not believe we would stick to them. The doubters have been proved wrong. Not only have we stuck to our plans. I have managed to reduce them again, for the third year running. Next year, the control total will be £3.25bn below the level set in last year's Budget. That is £12bn below the level we expected for that year when I be-

came Chancellor. Having reviewed the latest ojections for public borrowing in the light of those decisions I have concluded that we can now return to the task of starting to cut taxes again. I am able to make tax cuts broadly equivalent to the spending reductions, with government borrowing still falling to zero by

the end of the decade. After the Budget measures are taken into account I expect the PSBR to continue to fall at roughly the rate we have now achieved in the last two years. I expect it to fall from £29bn this year to £22.5bn in 1996-97 and £15bn in 1997-98. Broad balance should be reached after a further two years. The financial deficit is now expected to be close to the Maastricht reference level of 3 per cent of GDP in 1996-97, and to fall well below it in subsequent years.

So fiscal policy will remain tight. That is why the measures in this year's Budget are eco-nomically and socially responsible. I have made clear all along that every Budget I deliver will be dominated by the longterm interests of the economy.

INDIRECT TAXES

Before moving on to direct tax, let me run through my proposals for indirect taxes. Landfill tax

Last year I proposed a new Landfill tax, a charge on the disposal of waste in, for example, tips and old quarries. This will come into effect on 1 October 1996, charged at a standard rate of £7 per tonne and a lower rate of £2 for inactive waste.

The money raised by the Landfill tax will allow for a matching cut in the main rate of employers' National Insurance contributions by a further 0.2 per cent to 10 per cent from April 1997. This will cut the cost of employment by £500m and make it cheaper for businesses to create new jobs. Road fuel ...

From 6pm this evening, tax on petrol and diesel will rise by 3.5p a litre. I also plan to increase the tax on super unleaded petrol by a further 4p next May. This reflects its higher emission of pollulants such as benzene and the dangers to the revenue of

Continued on page 17

Cuts fail to spark old bangers on the back bench

Outside the Houses of Parliament, as the Chancellor made his way from No 11 Downing Street, a group calling itself the Welfare State In Danger Collective" was offering up last minute advice in the form of a

terrace chant. As big a fan of plain speaking as he may be, though, you felt "Eh, you Tory gits, give us back our benefits" was unlikely to stimulate a sea-change in Kenneth Clarke's thinking.

Indeed, as he took up his position at the dispatch box - as always a walking endorsement for the British suede shoe industry - Mr Clarke seemed unfazed by the pleadings of special interest groups echoing in

his cars. Even those from the group



calling itself "Tory Backbenchers In Danger" lined up behind him. Mr Clarke was anxious, he said - and since he said it 10 times in an hour-long speech you have to assume he meant it - not to do anything imprudent which might scupper his objective of turning Britain into the enterprise centre of

Prudence, however, was the last thing on the mind of those scanning the broad acreage of his back - looking for points of entry for sharpened blades, perhaps. Risks, big gestures, a machete taken to income tax that was the kind of thing they wanted to hear.

Mr Clarke gave them none of it. "Let me deal briefly with the economic background to this Budget," he said instead. At which the Turrett's Syndrome responses from both sets of benches, the uncontrolled yelps and barks that had greeted his

Chancellor, Gordon Brown, started to rifle through the small library of papers on his knee, Tony Blair took the first of a dozen gulps at his glass of water, in the over-flow benches up in the balcony, a Tory - who had clearly given up all hope of reelection - took the opportuni-

ty to sleep off his long hunch. It was that kind of speech. Occasionally, Mr Clarke sumulated a tipple of reaction as he presented his plans: the extra money for schools, hospitals, and police surveillance cameras the cuts in benefits for the young, the poor and the non-

Tory voters to pay for it. Less often his own team nouncement of the character- income tax", the shuffle was au-

istically redistributive way he dible as elbows were dug into proposed to alter the tax bur- ribs along the government den in the drinks industry. Up went the duty on strong cider (the underclass's drink) down went the duty on whisky (the toffs' tipple). No self-interest there, you un-

derstand, simply prudence and an attempt to stimulate enterprise in Scotland. The manner in which, at that point, he took a gulp of brown liquid and rolled it round his mouth with a connoisseur's expertise, was merely coincidental. But it was income, not im-

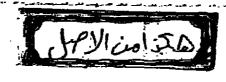
bibing, tax that they really wanted to hear about.

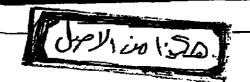
And Ken kept them waiting till the last. When he said "fi-

benches. As the Chancellor spun his figures, pens were put to order papers, working out the vital equation exercising Tory minds: how many votes can this one add to my diminishing majority.

him as the chancellor sat down - to the sound of Dennis Skinner shouting "it's bye-bye time" - suggested they were not optimistic.

They had come hoping for a grand gesture and they got an abolition of road tax on vehicles over 25 years old. You sensed it might take much more than that to keep this bunch of would cheer, like at the an-nally I turn to my proposals on old bangers on the road for another five years.





If you do that again, you'll pay for it

Budgets are not always simply about place a heavy tax on something, you make it more expensive, and discourage who use the leaded variety to pay for the mothers extra money.

without raising too many complaints. Here, Paul Johnson and Sarah Tana subtler reasoning at work in the implementation of taxation policy. Whether it be drinking, driving or getting married, governments over the ages have tried to change our behaviour in numerous ways through taxation and spending. If you

make it more expensive, and discourage people from doing it.

Taxing things which damage the environment is a good way to make individual firms and families take account of the wider consequences of their actions. By taxing leaded petrol more heavily than

MARRIAGE

It was not until 1990 that the income

tax system recognised married women

as independent earners. Until then our

system of taxing income jointly treated

married couples as a single unit. But married couples this week received more

generous allowances than those for two

single people. The move to independent

taxation in 1990 was one of the biggest

Many Conservatives are now womed

couple's allowance has more than

halved since 1990.

Whether anybody is

for the sake of £5 a

week tax reduction is,

The Government is

however, doubtful.

in conflict over family

encouraging everyone

encouraging mothers to

stay at home? While the

Mussolini.

policy. Should it be

to go out to work, or

sourced into marrying

but it still exists.

structural changes of recent years.

the tax system favours "living in sin"

who use the leaded variety to pay for the extra discomfort they are causing others.

Government also uses taxation to promote particular values. Very high tobacco taxation is supposed to discourage smoking. Some politicians even argue that the tax and benefit system pro-

mothers extra money.

But a word of caution: it is easy to exaggerate the power of tax. General social more powerful than the tax system. In "undesirable" activities is to raise money in our pockets.

Here, Paul Johnson and Sarah Tanner from the Institute for Fiscal Studies investigate government arm-twisting and economic trends are often much by taxation; and we offer some reminders of past more-or-less batty the end, the reason the Treasury taxes attempts to change us via the pennies



1698: Peter the Great imposed a beard tax in Russia, possibly because beards were considered unhygienic. It was also a form of wealth tax: the rich

were more likely to sport 1795: Hair powder became taxable. Clergymen earning less than £100 were. however, exempt, along with the King, his courtiers and

HEALTH

imposing excise duties on cigarettes and alcohol is often justified on health grounds; high taxes provide the "stick" by which the Government can beat down the level of unhealthy smoking and drinking. In recent years these "sin" taxes have

been much more

smoking than drinking.
The Government's 1992 White

Paper The Health of the Nation

announced a target for reducing

cigarette consumption by 40 per

cent by the year 2000. In recent

budgets the Chancellor has made

clear his belief that increasing the

price of cigarettes is the most

effective way to achieve this, and

this year was no exception: real duty

on cigarettes was increased by 3 per

cent. Since 1979 the real value of

duty on cigarettes has increased by

The real value of tax on alcohol, on

probably more in recognition of the growing

problem of cross-border shopping. But since

increased by only 15 per cent, and real duties on wine and spirits have fallen by about 30 per cent.

Do sin taxes work? There is clear evidence

that the number of smokers is falling and has

smoke compared to 44 per cent in 1979. The

compared with 38 per cent. While it is hard to

separate the specific effect of price from more

general changes in attitudes on health, evidence suggests that current and past price

been for 15 years: 29 per cent of men now

figures for women are 27 per cent now

eis do nave some effect. For the

Government, however, taxing cigarettes is always a good way to raise more revenue.

1979 the real value of duty on beer has

more than 75 per cent.

the other hand, was cut this year

punitively directed against above marriage. The value of the married 1694: William and Mary taxed bachelors and widowers 1s a year. 1927: Mussolini imposed encourage population growth and make the young work harder. benefit received more for the first child: the eldest

a tax on bachelors, which he increased by 30 per cent seven years later, to 1991: Those receiving child

> tax system itself is pretty neutral, social security policy has been aimed at making it more worthwhile for mothers to take low-wage jobs. Single parents receive, as well as Child

Benefit, one-parent benefit. This has led to fears that the tax and benefit system favours single parents over couples with children. Until this year the war of words against lone parents was not followed up by any policy taking money from them.

It is largely a myth that the tax and benefit system has altered family life. There has been a huge increase in working mothers. There has also been a big years. But neither trend has much to do with tax or benefits: other economic and social forces are much stronger.

ENVIRONMENT

The Government is committed to taxing us to force us to comply with its environmental goals. For instance, reducing carbon reason given for the controversial move to VAT on domestic fuel. And last year the Chancellor announced plans for a new landfill levy - a tax on dumping waste effective from October 1996.

Such thinking also lay behind a tax differential between leaded and unleaded petrol introduced in April 1987. This was designed to persuade drivers to switch from leaded petrol to the more environment-friendly unleaded. The differential was widened in successive

budgets to its present 5p a litre. Since the introduction of the differential the real value of duty on leaded petrol has increased by 38 per cent. By comparison, that on unleaded has gone up by 21 per cent. Over this period, the share of unleaded petrol has risen from a negligible level in 1986 to around half of all sales in 1993.

But the shift from leaded petrol was hampered by the fact that some old cars just would not run on unleaded; they needed to be replaced altogether or, where possible, converted. The fuel tax differential was designed to provide a financial incentive to cover the cost of converting or replacing such unsuitable cars

In this year's Budget 1927: Goat tax there was no change in introduced by the differential: duties on leaded and 1790s: Taxes imposed on horses, dogs, coaches and carriages unleaded were both increased by 3.5p. Most A tax on dogs was a cars that were going to shrewd move: people were loath to part with be converted probably have been by now, and pets. Horses and since 1993 the financial carriages were usually backed by legislation on emission standards.

1696: Houses were taxed according to the amount of light they let in. Window tax remained in force until 1851. Windows are highly visible, so assessing each householder's bill was

1777: Householders keeping male servants were taxed. Those employing female servants weren't taxed until 1785.

> us to save more there is economic virtue in a high savings culture. There are now increasing numbers of ways to save without having to pay any tax on the investment income, including through the Tessas introduced by Mr Major. But there is no evidence that these reforms have had much effect on the amount that we actually do save: people just move existing savings from elsewhere into the tax-

SAVINGS &

HOMES

John Major

described his

only Budget as

Budget for

savers". He

tradition of

Chancellor as a

followed a long

chancellors who

tried to persuade

free accounts. The biggest forms of savings are pensions and houses. To gain maximum benefit from pension-related tax relief, we used to have to be a member of a company occupational pension plan. No longer. Five million people have their own personal pension. The Government seems to have persuaded us that we should save for old age. But perhaps its greatest achievement for savers is the slaving of

Ironically, it might be precisely this that reduces our desire to take part in that other Conservative dream - the home-owning democracy. This was promoted through the policy of selling council houses in the Eighties, and there are more than a million more home-owners as a result. But homeowners, who faced an extraordinarily generous tax regime, have gradually seen the value of their tax breaks whittled away. These since the political demise of Lady Thatcher, the last great defender of mortgage interest relief.

LEISURE & CONSUMPTION

The Government uses the stick of high excise duties to dissuade us from buying cigarettes and alcohol. But in other areas it uses the carrot of not changing VAT. The standard rate of VAT is 17.5 per cent, but food, books and children's clothes, for example, are exempt from this tax.

This is for two reasons. The first is distributional: poorer people spend a much higher proportion of their income on food than do richer people (though that did not stop Norman Lamont from trying to impose VAT at the full rate on domestic fuel). And, though families are encouraged to buy children's clothes, they are not encouraged to buy sweets which, like biscuits (but not other foods), are

The generous tax treatment of books and newspapers is not justified on distributional grounds. They are just seen as "merit goods", which it is good for us to buy. Education, including education in rivate schools, is also good for us, if lack of VAT on payments are anything to go by. Until 1979, the taxman decided which

goods were luxuries and which not, Luxuries 1790s: Tax levied on playing cards and dice; a moral stand against suffered higher rates of VAT, though then that meant only 12.5 per gambling. 1995: All cars over 25 cent compared with a years old exempted from road tax: vintage cars are standard 8 per cent. Fridges and cookers a valuable part of British

1991: Norman Lamont taxed employer-provided mobile phones, believing he was helping to eliminate a public nuisance.

Betting has always had a special tax. There is a series of taxes on general betting, football pools and even slot machines. Like drinking and

smoking, betting was Lottery, plus cuts in betting taxes so the private sector can compete.

Diary

JOHN WALSH

Tonight an important ceremony takes place in Belfast. President Clinton flies in from London, his head full of the peace process and his luggage full of Bushmills Black Label. Then, rested and refreshed, he will switch on the lights of the city's Christmas tree before a huge crowd. (The tree is a 45footer from Nashville, Tennessee, which cultural centre is bafflingly "twinned" - or, at least, "sister city" - with Belfast.)

I was charmed to hear of a discussion that took place between officials of

the American consulate in Belfast, and a chap from the city corporation. Confirming the imminent arrival of the Prez, the consulate suggested that he'd

be delighted to do the tree lights. I'm afraid he can t," said the Ulsterman, "We've aiready got someone to do dat." The consulate staff were nonplussed. "Who?" they inquired (John Major? Gerry Adams?). "It's de Power Rangers, said the Belfast jobsworth. "Listen pal," one American replied, "We're talking here about the President of the United States." "I know dat," said the implacable Hibernian. "But an awful lot o' people will be disappointed if dey don't get de Power Rangers ... And they cost us seven t'ousand pounds," Five minutes of pulling rank later,

the President's men prevailed.

Spliff-toting rock bands, Trekkies, Sumo wrestling, Fiat trade launches -the Royal Albert Hall has taken a few knocks to its dignity in the past six years, most of them at the hands of its energetic chief executive, Patrick

His plans to erect a £15m pedestrian piazza under Kensington Gore, linking the hall, the Royal College of Art and the Albert Memorial, have been consistently derailed by the philistines on the Albert's board. Now Mr Deuchar is presiding over another first for the Hall - he's got into bed with Harvey Goldsmith, the heavyweight king of concert promoters, and they're installing a circus for a dozen

performances in January.
It's the Cirque du Soleil, that Canadian gang of supertroupers who perform feats of batso calisthenics and take themselves terribly seriously as a kind of adrenalinated commedia



Swap one of these for Clinton?

Tuesday, at the Canadian High Commission in London, I expected to

see strongmen and acrobats tumbling

across the diplomatic shagpile ("The

ambassador's parties are noted in

society for the presence of clowns in their Krazy Kar...") but we had to

settle for watching them on television. Nervous voices suggested that the Hall

was not, perhaps the perfect venue for

a circus. Those flying-saucerish acoustic baffles that have hung from the ceiling

for decades could spell disaster for any

high-flying Canucks unlucky enough to

cannon into them. Is Deuchar worried?

"No no," he said. "It'll be just fine. And

the people who always complain they

complaints you've had about bringing

the hall into disrepute, whose were the

most vocal? It turned out to be neither

can't see the show from the upper

circle will be confounded."

Patrick, I asked, of all the

dell'arte. At the launch party on

was when we had the Bolshoi in and staged them in the round." That was offensive? "People were outraged. Ballet in the round, you see. They hated it. Apparently it's just not on to have to look at ballerinas' bottoms."

Friends who sat in at the Irish Times literary awards in Dublin last week report three pleasing sights. One was the weird spectacle of a President the republic's most famous constitutional lawyer, Mary Robinson who actually reads books and speaks about them with critical insight. Another was the sight of the 75-

ear-old, blind Paddy Devlin, he who nded the SDLP with Gerry Fitt only to see all his public thunder stolen by John Hume, picking up the non-fiction prize, and proving that you don't need to be part of Ireland's youth explosion to win things; third was the sight of the new Nobel laureate, Seamus Heaney, tucking his napkin into his collar before attacking his dinner, a gesture favoured by ploughmen and aristocrats from time immemorial.

Last week I mentioned the Mystery of the Stolen Letters. A month ago, the writer Fay Weldon was burgled and the only thing taken was correspondence with her former agent Giles Gordon. Now I learn that, not 24 hours after the Weldon blag, another of Mr Gordon's clients, Suc Townsend (of Adrian Mole fame), had her place broken into. Ms Townsend is no stranger to burglary.



Who's burgling Ms Tow

the rock band nor the SF weirdos. "It But this time they turned her house upside down, took her favourite fax machine and threw her files all over the place in a frenzy of frustration. What were they looking for? It may be relevant to point out that Ms Townsend's letters from Mr Gordon cannot be found at her home; they're all at her office in nearby Leicester. What did Giles Gordon make of his status as felon-magnet? "If two of my clients have been burgled," he says cheerily, "that leaves only 71 to go. Presumably the culprit is a literary agent manqué." I should warn the villain that there's little point in trying to burgle Buckingham Palace. The Prince of Wales ceased to be a client of

Gordon's six months ago.

singing and communal glee has greeted the sad news that the journalist Stephen Glover has been fired from the London Evening Standard. One of the three co-founders of the Independent, and the first editor of the Independent on Sunday, Glover decamped to the ndard, from which redoubt he fired off increasingly bilious and spittleflecked weekly salvoes of contempt about his old newspaper's.
management, sales, design, redesign,
personnel, features, destiny and
anything else that occurred to him. The sleep of junior *Independent* reporters was baunted by dreams of Glover's hangdog, saturnine features, as of a permanently pissed-off undertaker, coming through the night to remark on their shortcomings.

An outbreak of unrestrained dancing,

his impossibly superior and bitchily critical media column – among them, the Standard's new editor-elect, Max Hastings. While not officially in the driving seat until the New Year, Hastings cracked yesterday and is said to have snarfed, "I don't care how long [Glover] sits there, I'm not giving him anything to do!" Glover departs with a rumonred golden kick of £100,000 but his immediate future seems stable. He's contracted to write regularly for Hastings's old paper, the *Telegraph*, and a media column for the *Speciator*. Poor Max (and the rest of us) will have to endure Glover's attacks for a while to come, albeit from a peashooter.

He irritated many other people in





4 Kalas

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435/0171-345 2435

EDITOR: Charles Wilson

DEPUTY EDITOR: Martin Jacques · MANAGING EDITOR: Colin Hughes SECTION TWO EDITOR: Charles Leadbeater · SATURDAY EDITOR: David Robson EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR: Michael Williams · ASSISTANT EDITOR: Simon Kelner

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The Clinton peace process

The Anglo-Irish rush to compromise before Bill Clinton's arrival yesterday recalls the old story about an occasion when Jesus was spotted wandering towards St Peter's on a donkey. "Holy Father, Holy Father, what should we do? beseeched the panicking cardinals.

Look busy," was the pontifical reply. There was no way that John Major and the Irish premier, John Bruton, could reasonably explain to the US President why. after 15 months of peace, all-party talks had not yet begun. And Britain, ever anxious to emphasise its sovereignty over Northern Ireland, was not prepared to let Mr Clinton gain the credit for making a breakthrough. Hence the 11th-hour deal and handshake on Tuesday night just before the US leader set off on his trip.

But the agreement is more than just a cobbled-together political fudge. The stalemate in the peace process has at last been broken. Preparatory discussions can now look at developing a framework for all-party substantive negotiations, sched-uled to begin at the end of February. In the meantime, an international commission will tackle the decommissioning issue.

Most important, the relationship between London and Dublin - the rock upon which a political settlement will be built - has been secured. For several months, a worrying rift had been growing. The British government has been adamant that some arms must be given up before all-party talks could commence. Dublin is equally convinced that the IRA cannot meet such a precondition without splitting the Republican movement.

The joint communiqué recognises these differences but ensures that they do not

Though neither the Unionists nor Sinn Fein jumped for joy at what was agreed, the initiative serves as a safety valve for what was becoming an explosive situation. Those who predicted that the IRA was

on the brink of restarting its military cam-paign were probably exaggerating. Even extreme Republicans have little stomach for a return to a conflict that achieved little over 25 years. But a poisonous atmosphere had developed, as demonstrated by the bitterness of the summer marching season. In such an environment, disturhances can easily spill over in generalised communal violence. There was an urgent need for a release of tension.

The long-term problems have not gone away, though. Divisions between Dublin and London remain. It is difficult to see how the British government or the IRA could alter their stance on decommissioning without losing credibility. So, at this stage, it looks like the process will falter again early next year if the IRA refuses to

hand over arms before constitutional talks.

The solution to this problem is not clear. Both sides must give a little. But the involvement of George Mitchell as chairman of the international commission bodes well. He is the former majority leader in the US Senate, well used to brokering deals with the apparently irreconcilable. He is also Clinton's man: the President will want to see the peace process healthy when he goes to the polls in search of Irish-American votes next November.

In short, the political leaders have bought themselves a little more time, the second peaceful Christmas in succession. They will have do a great deal more than this if hopes for Northern Ireland are to



Who would be a teacher? Fewer and fewer, it would seem. No one working in a school will be surprised by news from the National Audit Office that 150,000 teachers have taken early retirement in the past decade. Teachers feel maligned by the world; blamed by politicians for letting standards fall, blamed by parents for failing to discipline children, and blamed by society for everything from failing to spot child abuse to their pupils' bad manners.

The message from much of the media is that teachers are idle incompetents whose holidays are too long and whose views are too trendy. Recently, Chris Woodhead, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, has joined in, berating teachers for the methods they use and announcing that 15,000 of them should be sacked.

At the same time, the job has become increasingly insecure. Once teaching was a safe, secure public sector profession, in which people accepted lower salaries in return for the security of a job for life, Not any more. Due to cuts in public spending, nearly 10,000 teachers lost their jobs last year. More may do so this year.

To depress and demoralise those responsible for educating our children is extremely destructive. The nation cannot afford the loss of 150,000 experienced teachers when its prosperity depends on closing the gap in education standards between Britain and many of its competitors. Only teachers will be able to make the difference in the classroom and to raise standards across the

So what is to be done? One solution is to improve teachers' salaries and promotion prospects. Good honours graduates entering the profession earn just £13,350, rising over about seven years to £20,145, the top of the ordinary classroom teacher scale. There they may stay for a long time. The biggest group of teachers earns about £21,000. For this they work nearly 50 hours a week, according to figures produced by the Teachers' Pay Review Body. But better pay alone is not enough

Teachers need less haranguing and more encouragement. The best way to raise their morale and their enthusiasm for teaching is to accord them the status and respect they deserve.

They need more support from the Government, too. When the school inspectors arrive to pronounce on a school's success or failure, they should give the teaching staff help and advice to make real improvements in the school, rather than just vanishing until the next inspection.

Of course bad teachers must go. Teaching is far too important to allow those who fail at the job to carry on. Combining a serious increase in salaries and status for the majority of extremely capable teachers, while rooting out the few who drag them down, would do much to raise the value of the profession

in the eyes of the outside world. Until a teacher's profession is a source of pride rather than embarrassment, the haemorrhage of talented staff will continue. Everyone has to recognise how badly we need teachers and how much we undervalue them.

ANOTHER VIEW Iain Duncan Smith

Budget travel

Tt was that great Greek poet Cavafy who wrote that life was not about the arrival but rather about the journey, and, in a sense, so was Tuesday's Budget. A journey from recession to growth, with another budget yet to come. This is

clearly an 18-month strategy.

The £3.2bn reduction in government expenditure is welcome and although I hoped for more, it indicates our resolve to power the burgeoning cost of government. Furthermore, the lowering of taxes is very welcome and fully in line with Conservative instincts. With 26 million people benefiting from this, then the economy will also benefit. This, however, cannot be the end of the story, for I expect over the next 12 months we will see continuing pressure from the Treasury for budget restraint. and then later next year further reductions to make room for further tax cuts. Yet this Budget was twin-pronged. The first prong was Tuesday's cautious, though very welcome, move back into tax reduction, and the second is a reduction in interest rates - to work effec-

tively, both prongs are necessary. Last year the Bank of England panicked about a surge in raw-material prices and put huge pressure on the Chancellor to raise interest rates in anticipation of inflationary pressure. There was an initial rise but that was not enough for the Bank; it continued on Chingford.

right up to the end of this summer with its insistence on interest-rate rises.

What has become clear is that the Bank was quite wrong, the expected surge in inflation did not happen. Instead, the early interest-rate rises and the effect of the lottery have resulted in a slowdown that has led to smaller-than-expected government receipts. Thank God, the Chancellor rejected any further interest-rate rises this year and now the Bank admits

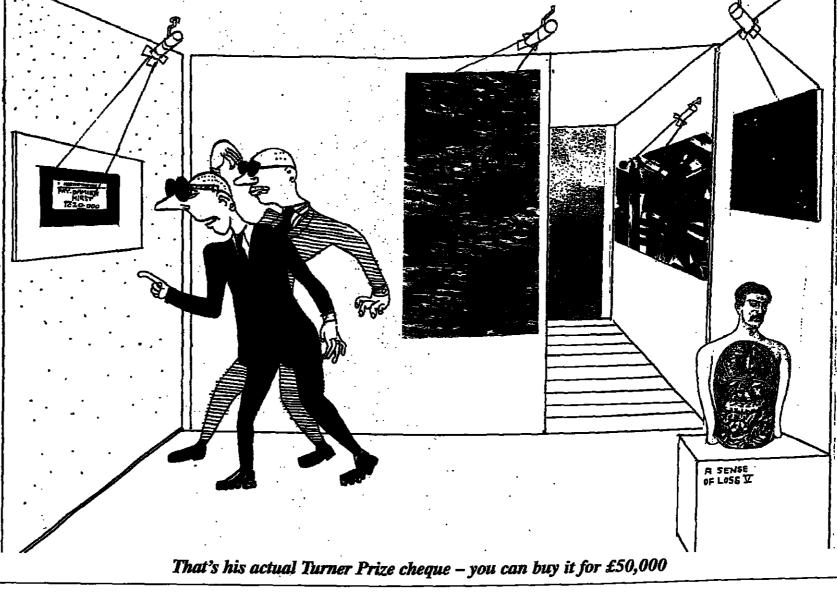
it was wrong.

With the most stable economic performances for a generation, the British economy is poised to benefit us all. However, to reap that benefit we need to boost growth rates, and to do that, given the scale of the tax cuts, the economy now needs a reduction in interest rates. That requires stability in the markets, and that is what Tuesday's Budget was in part about.

Most important, once applied, it is a strategy that, over the next 12 months, will convince the public that this is a Conservative government which not only wants people to take more power over their own lives but can deliver. To win the next election the public needs to realise that a move to Labour would be a gamble that it could not possibly afford.

I await Christmas with great expecta-

The writer is Conservative MP for



• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

The conflict in Northern Ireland: origins and solutions

From Mr Stephen Plowden Sir: Andrew Marr's article "In Ireland, no war is still good news" (28 November), pointing out the benefits that peace has brought to Northern Ireland, is very wel-come. But even Mr Marr slips into unnecessary pessimism by accepting the argument that the province's constitutional problems are ultimately insoluble because the two communities there want mutually exclusive

Some people in Northern Ire-land think of themselves as British and reject an Irish identity: some feel themselves to be exclusively Irish; some feel both Irish and British: others find it most natural to describe themselves as belonging to Ulster or to Northern Ireland. It may be difficult to devise a constitution that will take account of all these different identities, but it is not

logically impossible. I have previously suggested one possible solution which is province both of the UK and of the Republic of Ireland; there may be better ones.

The problem only becomes insoluble if people say, "I want to be British (Irish) and therefore you, my neighbour, have to be so as well." But how many people in Northern Ireland are still saying

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN PLOWDEN London, NW1 28 November

From Mr Simon Partridge Sir: Andrew Marr ascribes the conflict in Northern Ireland to "the long decades of Protestant ascendancy, bigotry and discrimination". He does not seem to me in the following quandary: have noticed that it was only last week that the Irish Republic voted, by the narrowest of margins, to remove its discriminatory ban on divorce.

The underlying cause of the conflict lies in the fact that Irish nationalism does not yet unambiguously accept the right of the Ulster Protestants to remain in the UK state of which they have been a part for nearly 200 years. The dispute at heart is not one between backward bigots, it is a conflict between two supposedly democratic states. However reluctantly, the

British state in 1921 recognised the right of southern Irish Catholics to secede from it. Does out (mainly) in Northern Ireland will sooner or later continue, as serious Irish republicans seek to give effect to the Irish constitution and the unionists to defend their position in the UK. Yours sincerely, SIMON PARTRIDGE

London, N2 From Mr Thomas Hutchison McFadden Sir: My experience as an "Irish

confirmed and established the love and respect for Great Britain and the British that brought me me in the following quandary: everyone in Northern Ireland has guns (and bombs), or ready access to guns (and bombs), directly or indirectly.

So who is more in line with the principles I have learned from my British mates - justice, fair-play and good faith - armed parties who will sit down and talk about surrendering their arms, or armed parties who will not sit down to talk at all?

Respectfully submitted THOMAS HUTCHISON MCFADDEN Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin 27 November

From Mr M. Ghirelli Sir: The Catholic Church

the Irish state recognise the right remains absolutely central to Ireof the Ulster Protestants to land's sense of itself as a nation" remain in the UK? If it does not. - so writes Conor Gearty ("When that Northern Ireland should the war by proxy between the church and state divorce", 27 from Dublin precisely because become a largely self-governing Irish and the British states played November). He thereby implicitly denies that a million Ulster Republic share Conor Gearty's Protestants can ever truly be regarded as Irish. Short of forcible mass conversion to the faith of Rome, or some sort of programme of ethnic cleansing in Ulster and the repatriation of Protestants to Britain, how then could the hope of Irish unity ever be fulfilled?

In fact, of course, the nationalist movement in Ireland has always based its arguments for unity on geography - the fact that 27 November American" in Britain has only

Hiding behind right to silence Ireland is a single island and that anybody from there must necessarily be Irish. Perversely.

most Irish would quite happily see the division of the neigh-bouring island of Britain into

two states - who can doubt that

they would support any move by their fellow Celts in Scotland to

seck independence from West-

minster? For they would see the

Scots as a separate nation with

the right to self-rule, a people

who simply happen to live on the

But they have a different logic

for Ireland: the nationalists claim

all their fellow islanders as com-

patriots simply because they are

fellow islanders. So it is that the nationalists deny Ulster people

their separate ethnic identity and

insist that the six counties must

be ruled from Dublin ~ however

much Ulster Protestants may

object to Irishness being foisted

upon them. But geography

counts little for Ulster people:

they will continue to resist rule

Irish are Catholics.

defines an Irish person.

the population at large? Just

because a gay man is not "out"

does not mean that he cannot be

gay men in Britain are not

instantly recognisable as such;

for whatever reason, they choose

The majority of the millions of

Yours.

M. GHIRELU

Buckingham

influential.

Yours faithfully,

Nottingham

27 November

DAVID BURLINSON

same island as the English.

From Mr Ray Clarke Sir: The judgment by the Court of Appeal in the Guinness fraud trial (Law Report; "Guinness defendants' appeals dismissed", 28 November) will no doubt bring a sigh of relief from the newly created Environment Agency and the green lobby. The relief may be temporary given that it will be considered by the European Court and a decision

is expected early next year.

The appeal considered the powers of DTI inspectors under the Companies Act and the obligation to answer questions on pain of sanctions contrary to the principle of the right to silence. Under similar provisions in environmental legislation, regu-lators such as the NRA (and

from next April the Environment Agency) have the power to demand answers to questions about polluting incidents. The Environment Act has recently to provide such information. I can testify to the value of

they know that too many in the perception that the only real these provisions in a recent water pollution case I was prosecuting, Hopefully, the vote for a affecting some 20km of river and change to the divorce laws might which resulted in a major fish kill. just begin to convince people in The power to demand informa-Northern Ireland that there is tion led to an industrial chemical beginning to prevail south of the manufacturer admitting responborder a new perception of what sibility and being successfully prosecuted.

If the European Court comes to a contrary decision to that of the Court of Appeal, the implications could be far wider than the fight against commercial fraud. The Environmental Agency and any right-minded citizen would hardly be likely to agree that polluters should be able to hide life-threatening mistakes or catastrophic pollution behind the right to silence. Yours faithfully,

RAY CLARKE Solicitor Nabarro Nathanson Doncaster

Listed buildings are not for ever

From Mr Peter Ayley Sir: The listing of buildings is not a way of freezing the past, as stated by Peter Popham ("Be listed, be damned", 27 November). It provides a degree of pro-tection to certain buildings by requiring a bureaucratic proce-dure prior to any substantial changes. The Centre Point building may have been listed, but there could be consent granted for its demolition before the end of the year. Listing gives the question of change a public airing instead of allowing singular

decision-making. Control does not cause mediocrity; just as freedom from control does not obviate it, as in the Docklands. Yours faithfully,

PETER AYLEY London, N1 27 November

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Back issues of the *independent* are available from Historic Newspapers,

Throw open the closet, then take it apart

From Mr Antony Grey Sir: Monday was the 25th anni-

versary of the first Gay Liberation Front public demonstration against homophobic injustice. In those days – even after the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, which I had helped to pilot on to the Statute book – homosexuals were still regarded by many "respectable" people as the scum of society - vicious criminals, sick, path-

etically twisted perverts, or both. Now, as your excellent feature "Moving into the mainstream" (27 November) shows, it is possible for some people to be open about their homosexuality without damaging their careers or their social standing. Some, but not all; as you say, the list is heavily skewed - anti-homosexual prejudice still keeps those in many walks of life firmly in the closet. And the great majority of your 40 subjects are London-based.
When I was Secretary of the Homosexual Law Reform Soci-

ety in the Sixties, all of us were "in the closet" - there was nowhere else to be. Now, thanks to a third of a century's campaigning, that is no longer the case. But the closet still exerts a

Sir. Does honesty really pay? My 21-year-old daughter graduated this year and is busy job hunting

in London. After three years as

an undergraduate and five

months unemployed she has a

a discarded envelope which con-

tained \$5,000 in cash and \$3,000

in American Express travellers

cheques. She immediately

phoned the American Express

Two months ago, she picked up

From Ms Kitty Paul

cash flow problem.

Is honesty always the best policy?

powerfully cramping and dis-torting impact, not only upon homosexuals themselves, but also upon the larger society's perceptions of us. We are the only discriminated-against minority that suffers the handicap of partial visibility.

It is time for the closet to be dismantled. The "outing" of specific individuals is a red herring. The crucial issue is the malign social effect of the closet itself. This will end only through the combined efforts of increasing numbers of gay people who are prepared to state openly, as the Gay Liberation Front did, that Gay is Good and Gay is Proud, and that they are not ashamed to be gay, and of every-one of goodwill in the larger society who is prepared to recognise the extent of the homophobic prejudice, fear and ignorance that still pervades society and to take meaningful

steps to curb it. À determined effort is needed to bring new initiatives into education, professional training and legal provision. The inertia of politicians and religious leaders

number and gave her own name

and phone number. Twenty-four

hours later the owner of the

money left a message to say that

he would like to speak to her.

Meanwhile, my daughter had

decided that it would be safest to

take the money to a police sta-

The police told her that if the

money was not claimed within six

weeks it would be hers. The owner

never phoned back. My daughter

returned to the police station after

tion, which she did.

prejudice must, and will be. overcome. Yours faithfully. ANTONY GREY London, NW2

were already well known to be gay, so what has been revealed? ome 85 per cent of them are closely connected with the arts or media, and while one would accept that people writing in the

unwilling to grasp the nettle of to the proportion of gay men in

not to express specifically their From Mr David Burlinson sexuality in their lifestyle, but Sir: "Revealed: the 40 most influthey are still gay. The bias in ential gay men in Britain" (Secyour selection serves only to tion Two, 27 November) was neiperpetuate the absurd myth that ther revealing nor can the selection be taken seriously. if you're gay, the chances are that you work in some field associated with the arts and Nearly all of the men concerned media.

From Ms Joanna Baxter Fielding media are likely to be influential because of the nature of their Sir: If it were not for the fact jobs, it is absurd to suggest that their influence is overwhelming. that (as proved by your survey) sexual inclination is generally irrelevant to one's professional The obvious conclusion to be life, I would say that I was lookdrawn from the selection made is ing forward to your "survey of lesbians influential in Britain today" - which, I trust, can be expected soon. Yours sincerely, JOANNA BAXTER FIELDING

that there are only a handful of gay men in the upper echelons of business, politics, the legal and medical professions, and the Civil Service, but is there any real evidence that gays are under-repre-sented in these fields compared

six weeks to be told that the money

had been reclaimed the day after

she had handed it in. She has had

American Express and has had no

honesty was not the best policy.

incurred in returning it.

ising experience for her.

Yours sincerely,

Williton, Somerset

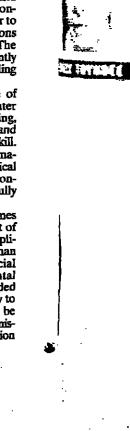
KITTY PAUL

Council vs counsel From Mr Nigel Peake

Sir: Whatever the statistics may no thanks from the owner nor from be concerning litigation in civil courts (letters, 27 November), the recompense for the expenses she fact is that claims against local authorities have risen dramati-I feel very angry that she is now left with the feeling that perhaps cally in the past 10 years, as Polly Toynbee correctly reported (24 November). How sad that being honest has Yours faithfully, been such a costly and demoral-

NIGEL PEAKE Zurich Insurance Portsmouth, Hampshire

Corporate Affairs Department



28 November

A Kalashnikov in every cupboard

It is an old convention of civil wars that, even when peace is made, citizens keep their guns

Well over a decade ago, I was rum-maging through piles of 60-year-old newspapers in the roof of the home of friends in Co Carlow, searching for copies of the Irish Times which reported the 1922-23 civil war. But what I found, hidden deep beneath those papers, was a far more powerful symbol of that tragic conflict: a big. heavy British Lee Enfield .303 rifle a small crown and the date 1918 stamped on the wooden stock - with a fresh ammunition clip beside it.

How the IRA of 1918-21 bought. captured or stole the weapon will never be known. But it had passed into the hands of an Irish family and remained with them throughout the subsequent war in which Michael Collins died for the Provisional government of the Irish Free State, and at the end of which Eamon de Valera surrendered on behalf of the anti-treaty Republican forces. And when that war was over, like thousands of Irish men and women, the Carlow family had kept their Lee Enfield rifle, just in case. In case the British returned. In case the lrish civil war was not really over. In case the Irish ceasefire did not last.

Now, of course, the old Lee Enfield was an antique, the cause of humour over dinner a few hours after I found it. Maybe, someone suggested, it should be given to a local museum. But I could not help remembering that gun when I heard that US Senator George Mitchell was going to look into that most sinister of all stumbling blocks in the Irish "peace process": the

iding behing the silent to silent

"decommissioning of weapons". For the ghosts of Irish history haunt the present more palpably than most of us imagine and, by and large, civil war participants do not usually give up their weapons when they lay down their arms for a ceasefire. They keep them for protection until peace treaties are signed.

Indeed, back in December of 1920, when Collins was waging his first war -against the British - he blamed Lloyd George's insistence on "decommissioning" for continuing the bloodshed. "... although terms of Truce were virtually agreed upon", he wrote, just before his death in 1922, "they were abandoned because the British leaders thought those actions indicated weakness, and they consequently decided to insist upon surrender of our arms. The result was the continuance of the struggle. British aggression went on unabated and our defence was kept up to the best of our ability",

Mitchell may not know that when the Irish civil war ended in 1923, de Valera - as he is quoted in Tim Pat Coogan's biography - tried to secure "suitable buildings" in each province of Ireland "to be used by Republican forces] as barracks and arsenals, where Republican arms should be stored, sealed up and defended by a specially pledged (sie) Republican guard*. After elections, the arms could be reissued, de Valera thought, "in such [a] manner as may secure the consent of the government then elected". In



ROBERT FISK

arms must be surrendered and a few token "heavy weapons" - or what passed for field guns in the rag-tag army of the anti-treaty men - were given up. But the rest were dug into the earth. hidden in roofs or cow-byres, where many of them remain to this day.

Ministers in the present-day Irish government have been both infuriated and fearful of John Major's repeated insistence on "decommissioning" as the price for all-party talks that included Sinn Fein - not just because of the terrible but private and unpublicised warnings of attacks into the Republic which the Protestant paramilitaries promised the Irish cabinet if the Belfast ceasefire broke down, but because, historically, the men and women of Ireland do not hand over their guns. Even after the 1798 rising, Irishmen hid their pikes rather than

surrender them to the English. Would an Irish peace really he in danger if the IRA and the so-called "loyalists" buried their guns in the garden? The Lebanese civil war suggests it would not. When the Christians and 1923, the Irish government insisted all Muslims of Beirut ended their conflict

in 1990 - after the Syrian bombing of a Lebanese rebel general's last redoubt - there was an ostentatious call by the new Lebanese government for the handing over of all militia arms.

A few trucks were ceremonially given to the newly reconstituted Lebanese army and a boatload of rocketpropelled grenades was dispatched to Croatia by the greediest of the Christian militiamen, but most of the Kalashnikovs and pistols and grenades and ammunition boxes were buried in the hills or beneath the floorboards of Lebanese homes

Senator Mitchell - who, ironically, is of Lebanese as well as Irish extraction - might take note of all this. For I know hundreds of Lebanese families who have kept their guns; in my small area of west Beirut they are mostly hidden in cupboards, with the tacit permission of the security forces. The deal is simple, though unwritten: if the peace continues, the guns will never be used; but if the army cannot keep the peace, then the guns become once more the ultimate means of each family's defence. So the price a government pays to keep the guns out of sight is the success of the security it provides for its own people.

Of course, there are terrible risks. Once Tito had satisfied his thirst for revenge against the wartime Croats, he insisted that every family in Yugoslavia keep a gun in their home for defence against invasion. And when the southern Slav civil war broke out in 1991,

cupboards and arties and used to terrible effect. But it was the fragmenta-tion of Yugoslavia and the nationalist ambitions of its little dictators that fuelled the new war - not the guns. Besides, most of the Bosnian warlords were, by 1992, breaching the arms embargo by supplying their men with

newer weapons. An international commission may decide that the IRA must make some token gifts of hand-held missiles to neutral parties - stored, perhaps, in one of de Valera's "suitable buildings". along with some Protestant ammuni-tion. And, given that phrase in the official communique about "all arms' being "removed from Irish politics". shrewdly spotted yesterday by Sean Cronin, the veteran Irish Times Washington correspondent - we might expect a modest gift of rifles, too, from the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

In reality, however, Major and John Bruton may well decide that the gar-den - where many an English Civil War brassard lay hidden over the centuries - is the best place for the IRA's armoury, a place where it can rust and congeal into history. After all, those English Civil War swords that survived Cromwell now decorate the walls of many a Home County pub - just as 18th-century pikes can occasionally be found above the fireplaces of Co ork bars. One day another generation may even see the occasional Kalashnikov hanging above the hearth well rusted, of course. There could not those same guns were pulled out of - be a more powerful symbol of peace.

> Herbert Morrison it was, I think, (Peter Mandelson's grandfather,

> incidentally) who once said: "Don't

tell me what's in the motion, just tell

me who put it up." Much of politics

is like that: to understand the real

issue, you need not only the bare

words on the page, but also their ori-

gin and real intent before you know

what's going on. There is nothing so exceptional in what Hillary Clinton

says about the economic disaster of

divorce for women and children. But

it is the fact that she is saying it that sends out alarm signals. Read her lips,

She began with a

pensée straight from

the Handbook for First

Ladies Visiting Britain

lobby in whose image she is now moulded. She may be right - but that

is beside the point. Her book sounds

Gillian Shephard, interestingly,

was not keen to jump in on this

theme. Sitting beside the Prozac

First Lady, she shone in warmth.

humanity and common sense by com-

parison - despite a routine, but not particularly heart-felt, defence of

Countdown to glad tidings

You know what an Advent calendar is, don't you? Yes, of course you do.

It's one of those things that was probably invented some-where snowy, like Germany or Sweden, where you open one window excitedly every day before Christmas and there's a picture of a robin inside, and you say to your crestfallen chil-dren. "Well, perhaps there'll be something interesting tomorrow", but you know there won't

That's it! Well, this is something entirely new in journal-ism. It is an Advent Article! Here's how it works.

Listed below are a number of things which have to happen in the next month, before Christmas Day finally arrives. By each one there is a little box. Tick the box as and when it happens. When all the boxes are ticked, it's time for Christmas! Here we go, then: You get the first Christmas

card.

You look guiltily at your partner and ask, "Are we sending cards this year?"

☐ Your partner says, "Did we send cards last year?"

You say, "Well, I remember we made a big decision about it, but I can't remember what the decision was."

☐ Your partner says, "Ob, let's be brave and not send cards this ☐ And you agree: "Spot on.

☐ Next morning you get six cards and your partner says, "Maybe we ought to send cards, you know."

Your partner says, "I can't think what to get you for Christmas this year ☐ You say. "I haven't even started thinking about yours

☐ You say, "We mustn't leave

it too late to get a tree this Your partner says, "Gosh.

yes! Do you remember the year we left it until Christmas Eve and you went down the Portobello Road just as the market was packing up; and all they had left were either 20ft or 2ft high trees, so you bought a 20ft one to trim down a bit, and by the time you had got it evened out, it was down to 2ft!" ☐ And you say, "No. I don't remember that."

☐ You buy some wrapping paper from the place near the bus station where it is tremendously cheap, and you feel that at least you have done something towards Christmas. Your partner says, "I've just

doesn't like figs."

☐ And you say, "So?" this plays straight into the family-values, cookie-baking, home-making ☐ And you say, "So?" both of you keep saying things like, "Might it be Pam and thinking of having kumquat, fig Bob?" Or "Could it be Pat and and apricot stuffing in the Rob ...?

remembered that Aunt Joan

turkey this year. as though it will be written by the And you say, "So?" same hand and brain that pens her \ \ \ And she says, "Well, Aunt tomorrow!

Joan will be here for Christmas

Day ..."
☐ You say, "Will she?" And your partner replies.

Oh, for heaven's sake! Don't you remember anything? Don't you remember our discussion about Christmas lunch and who to invite?"

□ And you don't. ☐ But you say, "Yes, of course!"
☐ And after a frosty silence between you, your pariner says, By the way, I found some dreadful wrapping paper left over from last year in the cellar, which I've thrown out - we really must get some good stuff this year, the trouble is, it's so

☐ And you can't quite bring yourself to admit that the wrap ping paper she threw out is the stuff you thought you were so clever to buy cheaply at the place near the bus station. One day you think you ought to raise with your partner the question of where you are going to spend New Year's Eve.



☐ But you don't.

☐ Because it suddenly occurs to you that you may well have discussed this with her already. just like Christmas, and you have forgotten all about it, and she couldn't take the idea that you have forgotten TWO vital conversations.

☐ The next day your partner suddenly says. "I suppose we ought to have a serious talk about where we spend New

Year's Eve this year.

You are so relieved that you haven't forgotten another vital conversation that you are tempted to answer, just as a joke, "But darling, we discussed this all years ago -don't you remember?" ☐ But some sixth sense tells you

not to. ☐ You get a Christmas card from Pat and Bob.

☐ It says, "Hi! See you in the New Year?" □ But you don't know anyone

called Pat and Bob. ☐ You know someone called Pat and someone called Bob, but you don't think they've

☐ This shouldn't worry you, but

☐ So during the next few days

More of our Advent article

She was one of the leading lawyers of her generation. But now the First Lady is a Stepford Wife

What have they done to Hillary?

Two dozen "prominent British women" were rustled up overnight. Would we be available for coffee and a discussion with Mrs Clinton at 9.15 yesterday morning? She wanted to talk about problems facing professional women - or so the message said. Well, that is an invitation not to be sneezed at, murmured confidentially late night down the phone from the head of embassy personnel.

The first question was, who were the other 23 selected "prominent women"? Some had no trouble earning the sobriquet - Lady Blackstone,



conference or committee is ever complete; Gillian Shephard, the most senior woman in the Cabinet; Sue MacGregor of the Today programme; Sue Slipman, erstwhile patron saint of single parents, now head of the Training and Enterprise Councils; Deborah Warner, the distinguished theatre director. There were two of us journalists from the only liberal broadsheets, no Tory press. A changer of a non-PC note was struck in the list of participants: "Sarah Ebanja - Hailing from south of the Thames where most persons of color live, Ms Ebanja is a local government official with one of the lower-income sections of the

London community. We eyed one another with fascination over orange juice, in the opulence of the ambassador's Regent's Park palace. As we awaited the First Lady's entrance, we tried, unsuccessfully, to guess the rationale for this curiously arbitrary grouping. And wasn't there something oddly uncomfortable about a lot of achievers gathering together to whinge about women's failures?

Mrs Clinton, we were told, conducts one of these meetings in every country she visits. We were, in other words, a necessary photo-opportunity in her itinerary, as the cameras rolled in for her opening remarks. In royal blue polo neck and hair swept into a chignon that said "serious", she entered the room and pressed our flesh, each woman getting the firm handshake and the long, intimately significant look. This woman is a professional. Or at least a professional First Lady. But is she still a professional in her own right? There is a special relationship

between our countries and I think that is especially true on a personal level."



she started out, a pensée straight from the Handbook for First Ladies Visiting Britain. She wanted to "trade thoughts or ideas you might have about common interests, particularly among women ... we have so much more in common than the things that separate us." And there was more from the same little book, handed down no doubt from Tricia, to Betty. to Rosalyn, to Nancy, to Barbara to Hillary. Bone china cups clinked, petit

fours went uncaten. What had they done to her? The men with the mind-machines have captured her at last, sucked the life and guts out of her, fashioned her into the only acceptable model – a fully fledged First Stepford Wife. She sits stiffly, like a mannequin, her head nodding up and down mechanically, her expression glazed, half smiling, hardly changing, her views anodyne, her words as carefully manicured as the lawns outside the window. What have they done to the woman who was once one of the brightest lawyers of her generation, one of the team that impeached Richard Nixon? What have they done to the

radical reform to the whole American health-care system? Was it the disastrous defeat of that project, and the cutastrophic mid-term elections that finally drove her back to the hearth?

Afficionados of her truly dreadful column - "Hillary Clinton - A View from the White House" - in the London Evening Standard will not be surprised to hear that the Stepford doctors have had their way with her. (Except for those readers who still think, as I did at first, that her column must be a pastiche from the pen of some wicked satirist). One of last month's columns might have made Nancy Reagan blush: "On Wednesday my husband and I will cel-ebrate our 20th wedding anniversary. I know it sounds corny, but we love each other more now than when we married," You don't want to know the rest.

It gets worse.
Talk was at first desultory. After all, what did we have to say that we had not all said a thousand times before? But dutifully we rambled round the usual buzz words - glass ceilings, child care, paternity leave, the long-

zero-hours contracts and the pitiful pay of most part-timers. What could we say that she had not heard wherever her travels take her? But now and then a little light glimmered in her glassy eyes. She talked of the backlash against women, the rush for traditional family values, the confusion exploited by a small but well-financed group of

But when Sue Slipman asked her about single mothers, it triggered a Stepford response: "There really is a reality to that problem," she said. Whether you like it or not, children of lone parents don't do as well in school, they get in trouble with the law, and more often need assistance with behavioural and emotional problems. I am writing a book about children, on this subject. It's a problem feminists are going to have to confront." She went on to say, "Divorce is a bad deal for women and children. I think divorce should be made harder. It's gotten too easy for women and men." when she delivers these home truths.

fundamentalists. Fine.

this exhaustively combative, unbearably confident little blonde know when she's beaten?" wrote Ann Leslie (not an uncombative woman herself) in the Daily Mail; pushy ideologue; protean schemer; Lady Macbeth; and even, according to Newt Gingrich's mother, bitch. How does she feel about the attacks on her? She replied in straight Stepfordese: "I don't take criticism personally. No matter what you do, you never satisfy your critics. You can spend too much time worrying about whether people approve of you, when what matters is whether you approve of yourself." Can she be de-programmed? Per

sar's wife.

haps, but rescue for the author of a nauseating description of a secret husband and wife midnight dip in the Many women, she said, do not like it moonlit White House pool may come

some of the Government's harsher policies. (Her, alas, off-the-record 2 nights in centrally located ** Grand murmured comments about sexism Hotel de Paris, en suite bathroom, B&B. in the Cabinet warmed the cockles of includes travel by Eurostar. those few of us who heard them.) But Extra nights £22 per night. then it is a far easier thing to be a politician in your own right than Cae-Hillary Clinton still attracts an encyclopaedia of invective: "Doesn't 2 nights in centrally located ** # Hote Julian, en suite bathroom, B&B. Flights from Heathrow. Extra nights from £18. Depart particular Sundays and have third night free. 6 December special - 4 nights in central * * * Hotel Sant Agusti, 8&B. NEW YEAR £27 30 December special - 2 nights in central * * * * Gran Hotel Havana, B&B. BA flights from Heathrow. Regular departures daily - 2 nights in centrally located ** Hotel, en suite bathroom, B&B London, Birmingham & Manchester from £ 165 6 December special - 4 nights in central * * Ho NEW YEAR SPECIAL £ 189 30 December special - 2 nights in central * * Cliper Hotel, B&B. BA flights from Gatwick Regular departures daily - 2 nights in centrally located * * Hotel, en suite bathroom, 8&B London, Birmingham & Manchester - from £ 162 BRUGES FROM £88 2 NTS - SELF DRIVE AMSTERDAM FROM £165 2 NTS *** ROME FROM £214 2 NTS *** Ø prices include all airport (spees, Prices P.P. based upon 2 staring a room, ngle room supplements may apply, ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABELITY For reservations phone Mon to Fri 09.00 to 18.00: 0181-960 9066 CITYTRAVELLER DIRECT LTD

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How the income tax changes affect you

budget: winners and losers

Income Company car & feel benefit Company car & feel benefit S,5 Child benefit Income tax before reliefs Value of MCA Fax relief on his 23,000 pension Matienal insurance Mortgage payments 7 11	a 1996/97 18 Epa 10 50,000 17 5.557	Change £pa 0 40 39
Income Company car & fuel benefit Company car & fuel benefit 5,5 Child benefit Income tax before reliefs Value of MCA Fax relief on his Y3,000 pension Mational insurance 3,6 Mortpade payments 7,11	1996/97 18 1996/97 18 10 50,000 17 5,557	. 40
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income tax before reliefs Value of MCA National insurance	24,785 (258) 2,047	24,259 (269) 2,112	(526) (11) .65
Share dividends after tax	600	600	ū
Mortgage payments Domestic fuel bills	3,385 1,296	3,385 1,296	0
Net income after mortgage & fuel bills	44,345	44,817	472
Duty: Petrol	1,659	1,759	100
			£372

Singl	e person		
	1995-96 £pa	1996/97 Spa	Change Epa
income	25,000	25,000	. 0
income tax before reliefs National insurance	5,209 2,047	4,940 2,112	(269) 65
Rent Domestic fuél bilis	6,000 432	6,000 432	0
Net income after rent & fuel bills	11,312	11,516	204
Duty/VAT: Petrol	433	490 -	57
			£147
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-96 Epa 000 974 49)	1996/97 £pa 15,190 1,854 (467)	Change Epa 190 (120) (18)
974	1,854	(120)
,	(10.)	(/
648	648	0
827	13,155	328
957	3,121	164
		€ £ <u>1</u> 64
	827 957	•

Recent	gradua	e	
	1995-96 Spa	1996/97 Epa	Change £pa
Income	10,000	10,000	0
income tax National insurance	1,459 759	1,340 746	(119) (13)
Rent Domestic fuel bills	3,000 432	3,000 432	0
Net income after rent & fuel bills	4,350	4,482	132
Duty/VAT: Beer	936	936	0
Record States have CA 000 Pays reprint and drive 10	Partition of the State of the S	Oper rose Domestic to	£132

Married co	uple, no c	hildren	
	1995-96 £pa	1996/97 £pa	Change Epa
Income	50,000	50,000	
Income tax before refefs Value of MCA National Insurance	11,044 (258) 3,606	10,319 (269) 3,659	(725) (11) 53
Net income	35,608	36,291	683
Angengianes: Marting chapit, no calcium in these STZ (00), dia	18.000 (18.000		£683

Unmarried couple, no children

	1995-96 E pa	1996/97 £pa	Change Epa
Income	50,000	50,000	. 0
Income tax National Insurance	11,044 3,606	10,319 3,659	(725) 53
Net income	35,350	36,022	672
			£672
High net wo		vidual	
ingii not we	TO THE	T. C.C.	
mgn not we	1995-96 £pa	1996/97 £pa	Change Epa
Emolytiments Inc. 930,000 pension	1995-96	1996/97	
	1995-96 £pa 330,000	1996/97 £pa 330,000	£pa - 0

Mortgage payments

CASE STUDIES

AVERAGE FAMILY

Relief as Chancellor leaves MIRAS alone

See Greening, 41; Paul Greening, 42

Sue Greening's work for the Community Dental Service in Gwent involves a certain amount of driving around the county. The 3.5p on the price of a litre of petrol will mean about £2 extra on the family's monthly petrol bills.

Child Benefit received for their two children, Adam, 13, and Kate, 11, will increase by £3.25 per

The Greening family are very re lieved that there are no changes

to the £30,000 tax exemption on

redundancy payments as Paul, at

present earning around £20,000 per annum, is to be made redundant from his job at the Govemment's atomic weapons establishment in 18 months' time. Although this will call for some financial adjustments in the famity's standard of living, Sue had no appetite for a pre-leightical Latix

pared to pay a little bit more in tax and see it go towards education

"They say they spend more on schools every year but all I see is SERVE away. She said: that kids still haven't got books and

the fabric of the school buildings is falling apart."

Changed duty on wine and beer will affect the family more than

vinced that 25p off whisky is good

for the population.

"Generally I thought (the bud-get) was fainly-liau/8000s-FRHISDRED MOROSen, I was very pleased he didn't do anything with MIRAS."

'I would have personally been pre-SINGLE MOTHER

Juggling between family and the future



een looking after the family, working voluntarily for a charity, and arming for her future employment. She has applied to go on a social work course in September to improve her chances of setting a longterm job, but meanwhile the family relies on state benefits. Ms Revell says "a very boring Budget" has in her situation.

The announcement on childcare Reveil's sons. It applies only to children under 11. In addition, it can-

VAT on fuel, which did not happen. But she was angered by the emphasis placed by the Government

There's actually more tax fraud, but they don't want to know about ally contributing to the economy but they're not classed as villains for defrauding it.

With two sons in school, Ms Revell was looking for commitments to education. She was glad to hear having just finished a university course in Cardiff, she was far from enamoured by news that student loans may be provided by banks llowance comes too late for Ms in future. "I'd love to see how that's going to work, I had a student loan and you just can't pay the thing not be claimed by those on income back anyway. You've got a milistone support. If it could be claimed by round your neck before you do anysingle parents on income support, thing. With the banks doing it, Ms Reveil believes, "it would just you're going to be in an even worse

Personal allowances 41.10 375.56 173.89 **859.4**5 243.12 -230.55· 769.45 343.89 400.55 989.45 1,099.45 15.90 418.12 457.22 1,209.4 2,052.48 864.19 35,000 1.030.85 1364.19 60,000 75,000 100,000

	Mar	ried person	tax	
Gross	Monthly	Monthly	flew net	Monthly
annual	tax and M	tax and M	monthly	change in
income	1995-96	1996-97	salary	net income
5,000	24.64	20.52	396.15	4.12
10,609	163.29	151.51	681.82	11.78
12,000	221.62	208.18	791.82	- 13.44
14,000	279.96	264.85	901.82	15.11
16,000	338.29	321.51	- 1,011.82	16.76
18,000	396.62	-378.18	- 1,121.82	18.44
29,000	454.96	434.85	1,231.82	20.11
25,009	583.12	565.35	1,517.99	17.78
-36,600	714.48	675.45	1,824.86	39.33
35,000	881.14	841.81	2,074.86	39.33
40,000	1,047.81	1,008.48	2,324.86	39.33
50,000	1,381.14	1,341.81	2,824.86	39.33
60,000	1,714.48	- 1,675.15	3,324.86	39.33
75,000	2,214.48	2,175.15	4,074.86	39.33
100,000	3,047.81	3,008.48	5,324.86	39.33
	TUD TIL	amed countes all	UMBI IVS	7 <u>. 12</u>

	Married p	erson's ta	x 65 - 74	
Gross	Monthly ;	Monthly	Hew not	Mouthly
Annual	tax	181	monthly	charge in
Monna	1995-96	1996-97	income	set acome
5,000	0.00	0.00	416.67	0.00
10,000	61.10	-49.86	783.47	-11.24
12,090	102.77	89.86	910.14	12.91
14,900	144.44	129.86	1,036.80	4.57
- 16,909	200.69	177.86	1,155.47	22.82
- 18,009	258.23	235,95	1,264.05	22.28
20,800	308.40	288.45	1,378.22	19.95
25,080	412.56	389.33	1,694.01	- 23.24
30,000	543.92	499.13	2,000.88	44.79
35,000 40,060 50,000	710.58 877.25 1,210.58 full man	665.79 832.46 1,165.79 ned couples all	2,250.88 2,500.88 3,000.88	44.79 44.79 44.79

Gross annual	Monthly tax 1995-96	Monthly tex 1996-97	How net monthly moone	Monthly change in set income
5,000	3.33	1.90	416.67	3.33
10,000	95.00	85.20	748.13	9.80
12,000	136.67	125.20	874.80	11.47
14,000	178.33	165-20	1,001.47	13.13
16,000	234.58	213-20	1,120.13	21.38
18,000	288.23	271.70	-1,228.30	16.53
20,000	329.90	311.70	1,354.97	18.20
25,000	434.96	411.70	1,671.63	22.36
30,000	565.42	521.50	1,978.50	43.92
35,000 40,000 50,000	732.08 898.75 1,232.08	688.17 854.83 1,188.17	2,228.50 2,478.50 2,978.50	43.92 43.92 43.92 Compara & Lyteras

Single nercon's tay over 75

WEALTHY FAMILY

'I heartily approve tax cuts at all levels'

Barrister, £120,000

Philip Circus did not anticipate being thrilled by the Chancellor's speech, "Frankly, tinkering around with petrol and wine and roads and so forth isn't really going to affect

me much," he said. Mr Circus played down the pre-Budget excitement generated by the media: "People seem to look to the Government as if they were the creators and distributors of wealth. But I don't particularly like that approach."

He praised the originators of wealth: "it's enterprise, not the Chancellor of the Exchequer that makes wealth. Britain is a country of enterprise." There was also criticism: "The Government squanders wealth. Business, on the other hand, creates wealth."

Mr Circus has done his own wealth creation. Heleans about ER20,000RD/ear as a barrister. He and his wife, Gaenor, live in an upmarket part of Surrey, a privilege

UNEMPLOYED

'It's done

nothing

for us'

The Elis family live in a two-bed-room council flat in Swansea.

of the two young children, John

spends his mornings at the near-

various jobs in the past, but now

is unemployed again. In August he

gained a National Vocational Qual-

Budget, he believes, will be less helpful. "I think it's a major con.

it's done nothing for the likes of the

unemployed. There have been no

incentives to get us back to work." His wife hopes to resume work

as a nursery nurse when two-year-

old Sophie is old enough. In the

meantime, they will have to make

ends meet with the benefits they

receive. Their child beneats willin-

BOSSE MANUEL BO per month, but oth-

er benefit changes are unlikely to

affect them significantly. The Chancellor hasn't done anything for the



he feels his hard work has earned. Reductions in personal taxation please him: "I heartily approve the reductions in personal taxation at all levels. I think those with low incomes need the incentive to get come falls into the higher rate of

them out of the welfare mentality, the poverty trap." But, like many high-earners, the effects of this year's Budget may not have much personal impact, as most of his in-

"Budgets never really ma ference. A budget 1140/1441 3/07/00 Bance would be an e

	20,0 25,0 30,0
ke a dif- Nibrade extraor- ensible	35,0 40,0 50,0
J. ~~~!~	

dinary Budget. This is a se

ELDERLY DEPENDENT A good idea, but

too late

Brooks, isle of Wight Retired teacher/lector ion: £10,000

Margaret Jackson has spent this year planning for her elderly father's future years in a residential home. Selling his £70,000 bungalow would be enough to invest and provide a steady income towards residential frome fees. "People are living so long these days. I mean, my father's 80 years old," she said. "He could easily live another 15 years or more."

His savings, which fill the £20 weekly shortfall between benefits and pension income and his outgoing home fees, would quickly dwindle if he required nursing

the Chancellor's claim that we have "a government that cares about the elderly and their families"? "I think the raising of the savings threshold is a gbbothlingUNit

What then does she make of

THRED LOWOR BISSETY people it's too

late. It won't help my father at the moment. The changes don't come into effect until April. If his house has been sold by then he won't benefit at all as It'll take him way above the limit. If it's not sold, and boosting the economy would have cost of the care , then it'll bring

Did the Chancellor say anything to make her optimistic about the the housing market?

"He doesn't seem to want to do arathing to interfere in [it]. He says If he still gets benefits towards the a knock on effect on the housing market. But with justinale to have

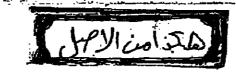


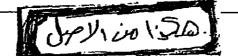
unemployed. He didn't really mention them."

Mr Ellis goes out for a drink about once a fortnight. He says he "usually drinks to a budget". He would go out more if he could afford it -"But I can't." He takes some comfort from the fact that tax on beer has remained the same, "even

though I don't drink much. I'm glad I don't smoke any more though". Overall, Mr Ellis suspects that the Budget was simply an attempt to buy the votes of the Better Better dring the people who are in a higher wage bracket."

INTERVIEWS BY BEN SUTTON





business



The electoral logic may point to a rip-roaring Budget a year hence. The structural deficit of Britain's public finance point in a more sober direction'

Chancellor bets all on electoral jam tomorrow As Tory backbenchers emerged from the Chamber downcast after Kenneth Clarke's tepid shower of tax cuts, the word was soon being put about that the Chancellor could preside over a bigger giveaway next year. The Treasury had apparently stacked away a nice little carner of tax cuts in its ul-

tra-conservative forecast of tax revenues next year. Allow for this, and the £22.5bn forecast for public borrowing next year that so rattled the City will turn out to be too pes-simistic, allowing the Chancellor to cheer up the troops in a year's time.

Certainly the electoral logic of this Bud-

get makes it look like the first of two. An irresistible precedent is Nigel Lawson's 1p off the 30p basic rate of tax in 1986, followed by 2p off in the pre-election budget of 1987 and the bait to the electorate of a 25p rate. The hope on the backbenches is that Mr Clarke will preside over a similar 2p cut next year, with the promise of a 20p rate after the election being dangled in front of the

There was, however, one big difference in the tax cuts Mr Lawson presided over: the budget deficit was running in single figures. In 1988, the Chancellor was able to deliver the pledge of a 25p basic rate of tax and balance the budget - indeed it had swung into surplus. By contrast, Kenneth Clarke's ambition of balancing the budget has now been postponed to the final year of the decade, the occasion for a pre-millennium knees-up at the Treasury.

greatly strengthened if he could announce a more favourable outcome to the PSBR next year thanks to better than expected tax revenues. According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, that is a distinct possibility. They say the Treasury is too pessimistic, to the tune of £4bn. On the basis of the Treasury's forecast for growth in nominal and real GDP,

year of £18,5bn. Fast forward to the House next November. Mr Clarke, glass of cut-price whisky in hand, galvanises the backbenches with the news that the PSBR has come in at about £18bn. That makes Britain one of the few countries already eligible for entry into EMU. What's more, he will say, the budget deficit continues on a downward path to £12bn, the sum projected by the Institute for Fiscal Studies for 1997-98 on the basis of its less pessimistic view of the prospects for tax

revenue. One more squeeze on public

spending, another push on the private finance initiative, and that journey towards

a balanced budget remains on course --together with a further 2p off the basic rate. Now spin the tape back and consider a more gloomy but equally plausible prospect. The Treasury's forecast for tax revenue could well err on the side of caution. But its projection for expenditure almost certainly errs on the side of optimism. The control total is set to fall in real terms by 1 per cent next year. But then it was forecast to do pre-

much. Again, in the current year, the control total was set to fall at the time of the last Budget by about 1 per cent. Now the Treasury admits it will grow by almost half

If you look at total spending excluding privatisation proceeds, the position is markedly worse. Debt interest this year is up by a cool billion pounds on the figure previously forecast by the Treasury. On this measure, public spending will grow by 1 per cent in the institute's model projects a PSBR next real terms this year.

Likely expenditure overruns are one way in which the Treasury's alleged hoard of tax cuts could vanish into thin air. The other is if its growth forecast of 3 per cent turns out to be over-optimistic, as several City analysts

The electoral logic may point to a rip-roaring Budget a year hence. The structural deficit of Britain's public finances point in a more sober direction. In this, as in so many other aspects of the economy, the 1980s do not provide helpful portents for the 1990s.

Putting a new gloss on an old story

Peering through the Whitehall fog. the public spending savings talked about in the Budget come down to three simple elements; an increase in privatisation proceeds, a cut in the contingency reserve and the

tiative. The PFI is a newish element in the equation, but the other two are long-standing Treasury tools for putting a new gloss on old figures.

Privatisation proceeds have been raised by £1bn to £4bn in the next financial year, compared with the projections in the Budget a year ago, but that telk only part of the story. The £4hn reflects the firming up of plans to sell both Railtrack and British Energy, the nuclear company, next spring and summer. A year ago, it was doubtful whether the Gov-

ernment would get either away.

It is possible that the Treasury is looking a two-part offer for British Nuclear or Railtrack, which would delay some of the proceeds to the following financial year. But this is politically unlikely, at least in the case of Railtrack, because it would make it easier for a Labour government to take back

The Treasury's estimate for the value of the two sales confirms some of the more pessimistic forecasts from the City - which see Railtrack worth only £1.5bn to £2bn and

British Energy perhaps £2.5bn.

As always, the privatisation proceeds figure tells only half the story. The rest of the railway privatisation proceeds, apart from Railtrack, are being absorbed straight into the Department of Transport's budget to offset the railway subsidy of £1.6bn a year. They are being used directly to keep the department's budget under control.

Garnering extra funds from the contin-gency reserve is another well-tried policy. The reserve counts as part of the "control total" for spending, and its shrinkage plays a big role in this year's Budget sums. The amount the Treasury sets aside in each Budget for unplanned overspending is lower for near years than distant ones on the reasonable grounds that it is easier to predict spending levels next year than three years

The tradition is that for the forthcoming financial year, the contingency reserve is roughly halved, but in Tuesday's Budget the cuts were a bit bigger, giving him a bonus of £250m next year, rising to several billion in

later years.

Finally, there is the PFI, a laudable method of shaking up the way public projects are financed and run. The drawback is that the Government is perennially opti-mistic about the rate at which PFI spending can build up. On its own somewhat suspect figures, an average of £2bn a year spent on capital investment under the PFI over the next three financial years has one tremen-

dous public spending advantage.
With the PFI, the Government does not put capital up front, paying for the services rendered only when projects are up and running. That delay in outgoings brings a substantial, though hard to measure, cash flow boost for the Treasury. All in all, these three changes more than account for the £3.1bn

Pound plummets to new low over lower rates fears

DIANE COYLE Economics Correspondent

The pound touched its all-time low against other important

currencies yesterday, foreign exchange dealers convinced that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke was poised to cut interest rates in the wake of the Budget. Gilts and shares celebrated.

The pound's trade weighted index dropped to 82.2 - the worst on record - against a range of other currencies before recovering to 82.4. It lost more than a pfennig against the German mark and more than a cent against the dollar. But the FT-SE 100-share index ended nearly 7 points higher at 3655.5.

Mr Clarke said yesterday: "1 decide interest rates and I have not told anybody that they are coming down." He added that he had been known to surprise the financial markets in the past.

futures market, which bets on future base rate levels, is counting on lower rates before the end of the year and a full halfpoint reduction from the current level of 6.75 per cent before the end of March.

Some analysts were more cautious, however. Adam Cole, UK economist at brokers James Capel, thought there would be a cut. "It is a question of when rather than whether - but 1 think we will have to wait until the new year," he said.

Simon Briscoe of Nikko Securities said: "The City has been left in the lurch. The prospects for interest rates are far more uncertain after the Budget than before."

He added yesterday's announcement of lower mortgage rates by key lenders would reduce any need for the Chancellor to act when he and Eddie George, Governor of the Even so, the short sterling Bank of England, meet to

discuss monetary policy on 13 December.

The main reason to doubt an early move, however, is the Treasury's optimistic forecast for the economy next year. It surprised independent economists with a prediction that GDP will grow by 3 per cent thanks to buoyant consumer spending and exports.

David Miles, at investment bank Merrill Lynch, said it would be difficult for Mr Clarke to persuade Mr George there was a strong case for lower interest rates at a time when he was so cheerful about economic

Mr Clarke vigorously defended his Budget yesterday. He said the slowdown was only a pause and the recovery would be sustained. "We are not going back to boom and bust." He said the forecast of a return to buoyassume base rate cuts.

Analysts said the higher government borrowing announced in the Budget also dampened the chance of a drop in base

rates. Although some suspected the figures were deliberately pessimistic so that borrowing would turn out lower than expected next year, Mr Clarke insisted yesterday his new forecasts were honest; "Some past Chancellors have put in figures that they dreamt up rather than the ones they worked out."

The Bank of England said further gilt sales required between now and the end of the financial year would amount to £14.9bn, or just over £3.7bn a month.

The Bank of England announced the new schedule for funding the borrowing requirement, in line with the ligher figures in the Budget. There will be a £3bn gilt auction next Wednesday, and an extra auction in February.

Forte fight: Robinson goes on the offensive against questions over sales plans

Granada resumes the attack

JOHN SHEPHERD and MATHEW HORSMAN

Granada yesterday moved strongly back on the offensive, countering City scepties who said it would not be able to achieve its stated aim of raising £500m from the sale of Forte's assets should its £3.3bn takeover bid for the hotels group succeed. Gerry Robinson, chief execu-

tive of Granada, who today begins a whistle-stop tour in Scotland of his company's institutional shareholders, said: "We have only made conservative assumptions" about the sale prices that can be achieved for Forte's chain of Welcome Break motorway service stations, its 68 per cent shareholding in the Savoy hotels group and the 25 per cent stake in the Alpha

Airports catering business. He also gave a detailed insight into how meticulous Granada's planning was before it launched its bid a week ago particularly its plans for Forte's market-leading road-



Bad service: Gerry Robinson criticised Forte's chains

side restaurant chains, Happy Eater and Little Chef.

"We have a site-by-site plan for 80 per cent of the Happy Eaters and Little Chefs. We know where there are planning applications for alternative restaurants near and around these sites. We are up to speed on this. The service at the sites

is bad in our view. The original concept still looks good, but has the Savoy means they [the not been kept up to date. We would introduce fast food into these sites. We want commercial relationships, such as Burger King, that give us a good return.

Mr Robinson believes Granada can sell the Savoy stake despite Forte's well chronicled scraps with the upmarket hotel group over the years, which have virtually wiped out the marketability of the shares.

You have got the trophy asset players. And there probably is an institutional play there, a view supported by the share price rise of the Savoy since we made our bid. It does look as if there is interest in this," Mr Robinson said.

Sir Rocco Forte, chairman and chief executive of Forte, disagreed. "The Savoy is not an easy situation. We have had lots of approaches to sell the shares over the years, but below the market value," he said.

"Since there's no market in

the Savoy means they [the shares] are marked up. That does not mean there is any growth in demand for the

Meanwhile, the directors of the Savoy have formed an executive committee to "monitor the situation. Forte's repre-sentatives on the board - Sir Rocco and Sir Anthony Termant - have agreed to be excluded

from the committee. Mr Robinson said Forte was unable to make asset sales because Sir Rocco was difficult to negotiate with. "We couldn't get to talk to them about Gardner Merchant [the catering business]. And they shouldn't have

been selling it anyway."
Nonsense, said Sir Rocco. "Granada didn't make an offer that was good enough. He offered £100m less than I got for Gardner Merchant." Mr Robinson further attacked the management style at Forte, singling out the way the budget Travelodge's were being run.

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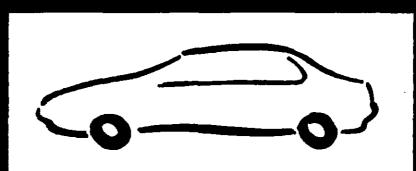
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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Harry helps fill Safeway trolley

ries of eye-catching price-cutting deals and promotions. Argyll's chief executive, Colin Smith, prefers a low-profile, softly-softly approach. But it is and they now look fairly valued. proving no less effective and over the last couple of years he has been quiindustry laggard to respectable competitor.

Yesterday's figures show that the catch-up process is continuing nicely. Profits for the six months to 14 October were up 5 per cent to £215m. Like-for-like sales at the group's main Safeway chain grew by 7.8 per cent in the period and by a heady 9.6 per cent in the six weeks since. This is almost into Tesco and Asda territory.

Much of this has come from the group's popular "Harry" advertising campaign as well as last month's in-troduction of its ABC loyalty card, which has signed up 3 million members. Safeway needs a 2 per cent sales uplift for its loyalty card to pay for itself and says it is meeting its targets.

These measures have depressed the gross margin, which was 0.5 per cent lower than last year. But Safeway is following the Tesco and Asda approach. using lower prices and heavy promotion to drive sales. Safeway is also now pledging to match Asda on key fresh produce prices, which will further depress the margin.

The Safeway 2000 initiative, aimed at improving marketing and operating efficiencies, is starting to yield divi-dends. It has coped with the disruption caused by nearly 5,000 redundancies and re-training as many other staff moved to different jobs. With its edgeof-town "compact store" format, Safeway is coping better with planning restrictions. It will open 17 stores next year and as many again in 1997.

Sales per square foot have im-proved from £12.86 to £13.84. The company has pledged to reach £15 by 1998, although even this will be behind its main rivals. Elsewhere Safeway is improving its proportion of primary shoppers as opposed to customers who simply use it as a "top-up" shop, However, it still lags behind market leaders Tesco and Sainsbury.

The spend of the family shopper, another Safeway target, has also increased. Safeway now has creches in 27 stores and plans 60-70 over the next three years. The self-scanning trial has been extended to 24 stores. Analysts are forecasting full-year

Unlike Archi. Norman at Asda, who has grabbed the headlines with a se-7p to 312p yesterday that puts the shares on a forward rating of 13. Argyll's improvements mean the shares have lost their discount to the sector

etly steering the Safeway group from Fly in the sugar at Tate & Lyle

The management succession unveiled by Tate & Lyle on Budget day has removed some of the uncertainties surrounding the sugar and sweeteners group. But there are plenty of others for investors to fret over.

The group faces an investigation into alleged price fixing in the US and a farm bill there that could alter the costs of important raw materials such as maize from next October. On top of that, a glut of beet sugar has meant no-body in the world's largest sugar re-fining market has made much money in the US, Tate included.

These risks go a long way to explaining the shares' 10 per cent un-derperformance against the market this year, despite a continuing strong trad- around 10 per cent of the total.

ing performance. Yesterday the company announced pre-tax profits up from £274m to £311m in the year to Sepexcluded.

But the more fundamental difficuly with Tate is where it goes from here. World demand for sugar, which is still mainly from the developed countries, is growing at a niggardly 2 per cent a year and the market remains highly xompetitive.

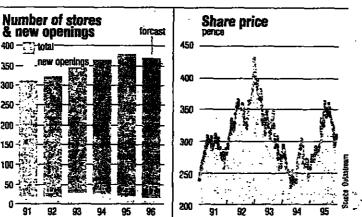
to develop sucralose, a sugar substitute that competes with Monsanto's Nutrasweet. But to date it has been ex-cluded from the main US market by a

failure to gain approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

The £12.9m write-off on old sucralose plant in these figures appears to draw a line under that experiment,

Tate is now pinning its hopes for growth on developing markets, riding on the back of the apparently insatiable demand for products like Coca-Cola in markets currently starved of them. Even so, profits from developing markets are unlikely to represent more than

Market value: £3.5bn, share price 312p					
ive-Year record	1993	1994	1995	94/95 6 months	95/96 6 months
可能多速度 1.000 月。	5.2	5.6	5.8	3.1	3.2
re-tax profits (£m)	417	362	176	205.3	213.7
Michigal Color	27.1	22.6	8.3	12.8	13.3
vidends per share (pence)	10.9	11.5	12.0	3.9	4.05
lumber of stores			haro nri		



Group profits of £345m this year would put the shares up 10p at 454p on a forward multiple of just 10. Untember, an underlying advance of 23 til Tate can show more exciting growth, per cent if £25.5m of one-off items are or less underlying volatility, the shares are likely to stay dull. Hold.

Yorkshire plays down growth

The maturity of the market led Tate When the history of privatisation is written, the drought of 1995 will go down as one of the key events in the realisation that the water industry should never have been sold off in the first place. Yesterday's half year figures from Yorkshire Water confirmed that view as the company struggled to jus-tify a dividend rise of 10 per cent even as it was still threatening to cut off its customers' supplies on alternate days. It is strange indeed when a quoted company seeks to minimise its reported

profits growth to placate consumers. politicians and the regulator but that is what Yorkshire was doing yesterday.

Profits of £99.5m, up 48 per cent were
misleading, the company said, as lost
year's result included a £25m restructuring charge.

A better measure, and a much less

contentious figure, was the 10 per cent increase in underlying profits. Earnings per share of 47.1p provided handsome cover for the increased interim dividend

payout of 9.1p.
From the investor's point of view, the import of yesterday's announcement was the continuing cost of tankering water from the relatively damp northern part of Yorkshire to the hills and valleys of the west - where reservoirs are still only 20 per cent full compared with the norm for this time of the year of 60 per cept.

The current cost of the operation is running at £3m a week - and with only £4.6m of the accumulated total of £20m taken against first half profits, analysts were busy downgrading their full year

Yorkshire's dividend is so well covered, however, and the events of this summer so unusual that the dividend, forecast at 31.7p for the year to March, and offering a yield of 6.5 per cent at yesterday's close of 612p, is impregnable.

So it should be - with political worries and the threat of a windfall tax in the background a high yield is a reasonable expectation.

Simon Pincombe CHY DIARY

So farewell James Capel and Samuel Montagu?

The intractable problem of how to successfully brand the diverse business interests that are HSBC has finally been resolved. The bank is to unveil a new corporate image in January, putting an end to the years of confusion over James Capel, Samuel Montagu. Midland Bank et al. Visitors to the HSBC deal-

ing floor will bear witness to a different business logo on virtually every pillar. The bank has been trying to address the lack of focus for some time under the guidance of Bernard Asher, chairman of investment banking. However, progress has been slow. Compare the immediate disappearance of the Smith New Court name following the

merger with Merrill Lynch.
The proposed solution is stunning in its simplicity. The bank intends to put the HSBC prefix in front of all its brand names in the hope that people will eventually forget about them and they can be dropped.

So come 1996 it will be HSBC James Capel and HSBC Samuel Montagu. The only name not destined to wither on the vine is Midland Bank, Remember, you read it

Grim actuarial warnings take their toll on Bernard Taylor, chairman of Medeva, who announced yesterday that he is retiring. Mr Taylor intends to spend a lot of time relaxing in Australia after learning that those retiring earlier tend to live longer.

"There's a message there for us all," he declares, scoffing at the suggestion that he is departing for reasons more sinister. "Unless you think my wife's ministrations on this subject over a period of 35 years are sinister, then this is not sinister," he said, adding that he always intended to retire at 60. Actuaries say if you retire

at 60 "you will have a longer and better life than if you retire at 65". If you are in a



Safeway reveals that it has been inundated with requests for video compilations of its current advertising campaign featuring Harry, the toddler who spends life in his mother's supermarket trolley pontificating on the value of groceries. "We have had requests for 1,000 copies," said a spokesman, "some from City analysts." Safeway says it will be using Harry again. "It will be a while before he becomes a sporty-faced teenager."

stressful job and retire at 65 you are likely only to live to 72, but if you bow out at 60 you can expect another 18 years on average. Why Australia? That's

where his two sons and five grandchildren live.Two daughters also live abroad.

After much deliberation and fine wine the Dickens Pickwick Luncheon Club has decided not to dissolve itself at least not yet. Readers of yesterday's diary will recall that Cedric Dickens, a descendant of the celebrated author, was keen to bring the curtain down on this venerable City forum because the club's venue - the top room at the George and Vulture was too damp to lunch on. But the final gathering – at

the afternative venue of the Old Doctor Butler's Head failed to vote itself into oblivion. Instead it was resolved to press Samuel Smith, the Tad-

caster brewer that owns the ancient inn, to mend the roof and allow the club back in for another meeting in the spring where the matter of its dissolution will be discussed again. Over more wine. "Back from the brink." Mr

- 19.5EM

Dickens breathed.

The telephone rings. It is Peter Levine, chairman and chief executive of Canary Wharf, who takes exception to our story of the Jaguar Building Services man who was trapped in one of the windowless storage rooms in the central spine of Britain's tallest office block. The lack of inside door handles in some of these rooms is not an architectural oversight, he points out. Rather it is the tenants who are responsible for the fixtures and fittings. The gibbering cleaner was rescued after faint screams were were heard coming from the fabric of the building.

Top-level changes at MDIS

DAVID HELLIER

McDonnell Information Systems, the computer services company, said that Giles Hemmings, who joined as director of operations in April, has resigned - earlier than expected.

His departure follows Tuesday's appointment of John Klein as chief executive. Mr Klein previously ran a \$2bn software operation for Digital. It is believed that Mr Hemmings will have his year-long notice period paid in full.

Mr Hemmings was recruited from Arthur Andersen by Ian Hay Davison, the MDIS chairman. Mr Hay Davison said yesterday that he had brought Mr Hemmings in to the group to "get to the bottom of problems" after it had issued two profit warnings. But Mr Hemmings "never expected to be chief ex-ecutive." he said.

In August MDIS warned that the group's results for the full year were likely to be substantially below market expectations. Analysis immediately reduced their forecasts from around £13m to around £2m. The company also said in August that Jerry Causley, who led the management buyout from McDonnell Douglas, was leav-

ing the group.

Mr Klein joined the board in June and now succeeds Mr Causley. In his new job, he is expected to play a key role in developing the company's long-term strategy.

Amec spurns bidder at secret meeting Erik Tonseth, Kvaerner's and engineering is so strong that

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Hostilities between the UK construction group Amec and the Norwegian shipping com-pany Kvaerner deepened yesterday after a secret meeting of senior executives.

Sir Alan Cockshaw, Amec's chairman, is believed to have strongly rebuffed attempts by Kvaerner to reach a recommended deal on its bid, which could be worth up to £375m. However, it was hoped that further meetings would take place today or tomorrow.

solve differences, Kvaerner bought another 1.7 per cent of en UBS as Amec's largest shareholder.

day's meeting Kvaerner tried to persuade Sir Alan to agree a recommended offer for the large number of Amec preference shares. But Sir Alan, just off the plane after a trip to the Middle East, was said to be in no mood to compromise. Kvaerner's £1-a-share offer

As the two sides tried to re- for Amec's ordinary capital is worth £202.6m. An offer for the preference shares, worth about Amec shares, taking its holding to 17 per cent. Kvaerner has to be sent out to investors by Monday.

that Amec may be in a position It is thought that at yester-

to negotiate slightly better terms for the preference shares. though any substantial difference would not be allowed under takeover rules. However, as the ordinary

share offer has been rejected, Amec believes there is little point in discussing the terms of the preference share offer.

that it was not the culture of Scandinavian companies to Alan said that the company's action had been hostile throughout, starting with a dawn raid on the shares last week and publication of the offer document just 48 hours later.

Mr Tonseth was back in the building arms, he said. UK after a brief return to Norway to talk to analysts, some of Mr Tonseth said: "The synergy we see within both oil and gas

chief executive, told Sir Alan it defends the price for Amec of one pound per share."

While the price-earnings ramount hostile bids. But Sir tio of 37, based on Amee's expected earnings per share in 1995 of 2.7 pence, could be thought high, it was justified by the synergies and the fact that Kvaerner intended to sell Amee's property and house

Analysts said Kvaerner's presentation on Tuesday had failed whom have been cool on the bid. To erase doubts on the specific synergy between the two companies.

IN BRIEF **Profits climb at Evans of Leeds**

Evans of Leeds said the White Rose shopping centre, which it is developing with Yorkshire Water and Land Securities, is almost fully pre-let and on schedule for completion by Easter 1997. Pretax profits climbed 17 per cent from £4.6m to £5.4m in the six months to September. Interim dividend rose 10 per cent to 0.96p.

Wainhomes hit by interest charges

Wainhomes said it maintained sales and operating profits despite selling fewer houses in the six months to September. Pre-tax profits fell from £5.27m to £4.25m because of increased interest charges. Earnings per share were 4.5p (5.7p) and the interim payout was maintained at 1.5p.

Sell-off at Johnson Fry

Johnson Fry is selling its personal financial planning business, Johnson Fry Financial Services, to a new company controlled by some of its managers for £1.25m. Net assets involved are estimated at £150,000. The division traded at a loss, including allocated over-heads, of £563,000 in the year ended 31 December.

Transformation at National Home Loans

National Home Loans confirmed its transformation from nearcollapse four years ago. Profits rose 32 per cent to £15.1m and the 1p dividend was the first since March 1991. Net interest income was flat at £20.3m but costs grew from £8.6m to £10.3m.

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Augrous Sylves (I)	24 8m (26 3m)	3 37/m of 20/a)	1 to - 16 úc	· felik
Argyfi Group (I)	2 dan (1 siran)	21 tm (%2m)	12 (5 (12 -5)	3 1150 (3 9p)
Evans of Lucds (I)	(1)	S Mar Affina	3 50p (2 50).	C 765 /0 87pi
JU Gravy (1)	95 to 65 time	2 \$46 of 73mg	1 (2 1 50)	Tieta di Asa
Le Riche's Stores (f)	23 Geo (66 Geo	2 (47 (147 m)	78-99	: -5 (4 -5):
Maraton Thompson (I)	2 - 3m - 75 A.m.	10 9m (10 9m)	17 0% 3 90g,	- Sp. (1.76p)
National Home Leans(F)	111	15 territides	32 65 (12 %)	·D (m)
Kigrithasaber (1)	To Sec. (74.0a)	2.63m (0.53m)	8 (65 (2 07))	U 60 (0 Sp)
Talo & Lyle (F)	4.736n (4.77bn)	31tm (74th)	19 (to 1920p)	:5p :14 4;
felie Waddington (1)	132 (m. 12) 5:5j	11.4) or (4.35m)	795 (7.536)	<2 (2 €s)
Waintornes (I)	45 (m. 45 6m)	4 25m (5 25m)	4 %c (5 7n)	150:150
Yorkshire Water (I)	292m (275m)	19 5m (67 2m	47 tg (31)gy	G : g : g : g

Asian weakness hurts Flemings

JOHN EISENHAMMER

The persistent weakness of Asian markets took its toll on interim results at Flemings, the privately owned investment bank, which yesterday announced a 22 per cent drop in six-month pre-tax profits to

About half of Flemings' business is Asian-related, including Japan, "The markets where we play to our strengths have been very difficult. Most Far Eastern markets are down in dollar terms, and some regional markets have taken very substantial hits." said John Manser, group chief executive.

Half-year pre-tax profits to 30 June at Jardine Fleming, the group's Asian arm, slumped to £52m from £93m. "Growth rates continue to be strong in Asia, and that will eventually be reflected in stock market valuations, but not while governments there continue to rein in

Flemings has also been concentrating on setting up a broking and branch network in Latin America, the last remaining gap in its international coverage, but this has put pressure on costs. The investment bank's performance in the UK and US were described by Mr Manser as steady, but insufficient to compensate for the Asian weakness. "1995 will go down as the year of the developed market, not of developing markets. We just have to

The bank, which is 35 per cent with the remainder held by to 7p from 6.5p, reflecting "substantial dividend cover".

on monetary policy," said Mr surge in UK mergers and ac-

securities, a persistent area of management. Flemings in Europe are suffer-ing from low volumes and pres-

regard it as swings and round-abouts." he said. owned by the Fleming family. employees and institutions, has increased the interim dividend

With Flemings corporate fi-nance benefitting from the quisition activity, and a strong

> weakness remains retail asset Overall, funds under management increased, largely thanks to the appreciating market, by 14 per cent to £53bn. with a £2.5bn net inflow of funds. But Save & Prosper and

focus on building up research

and sales capacity in European

sure on charges in the competition to win business. Mr Manser expected the turbulence in UK banking and investment banking to continue. But he said it was too early to tell the effect of balance sheet size and mass on smaller operators in the market, and their ability to continue to attract

Thirsty hot summer shines on Marston

JOHN SHEPHERD

The hot summer provided a big boost to beer sales at Marston. Thompson & Evershed, the regional brewer based in Burton on Trent. Almost a quarter of a £2.1m rise in half-year operating profits to £15,44m was due

to the weather. Marston, tamed for its Pedigree bitter, brewed using the old Union system, also benefited from increased beer sales to the free-trade. The free-trade, including national accounts, and take-home trade now account

for 50 per cent of beer sales. "But while the weather was extremely kind to sales of lager, eider and soft drinks, it was less so to sales of cask-conditioned ales, where volumes were down by 1.8 per cent," said Michael Hurdle, chairman.

Marston succeeded in pushing through price increases, which led to the company's 233 managed houses lifting profit margins by 1.6 percentage points. Rents were also raised across the 644-strong tenanted

estate by more than 4 per cent.

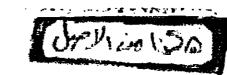
The overall advance in pretax profits, however, was less marked, due to a rise in interest costs from £761,000 to £1.64m, reflecting the company's strategy to sell low profitmaking tenancies and buy more managed houses.

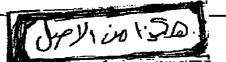
Pre-tax profits for the six months to 23 September to-talled £13.9m, up 13.6 per cent. Sales advanced 11.2 per cent to £85.2m. The interim dividend is boosted 42 per cent to 2.5p. the rise largely to remove the disparity between the half-year and final payments.

Put yourself in Clarke's shoe

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market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100 3655.5 +06.7 FT-SE 250

3951.0 +9.3 FT-SE 350 1810.6 +3.5 SEAQ VOLUME

823.9m shares. 30,823 bargains Gitts Index 95.34 +0.25

SHARE SPOTLIGHT share price, pence

5 2 2 2 H

Budget, dominated the stock market. The feeling that base rate reductions are inevitable if the Chancellor's strategy is to have any chance of success

overwhelmed any Budget blues, sending shares, to the surprise of many, to new peaks. Mortgage cuts by the top lenders Halifax, Abbey National and Nationwide underlined the pressure for lower base rates. Any move is not due until the middle of next month but the growing clamour for action could force the

few days. Most expect cuts either side of Christmas. More records in New York and renewed takeover speculation added to the market's would bid up to 840p for South strength. At one time the FT-SE 100 index was up 22.2 points: it closed 6.7 higher at "totally unacceptable" WW

Interest rates, rather than the Budget, dominated the stock benefits it should draw from the eventual Halifax flotation. The shares reached a 635p

peak, up 17p.

Most other banks were firm,
with Standard Chartered, one of the market's favourite takeover counters, up a further

16p to 596p. Insurances remained in the bid frame. GRE put on 4p to 268p, with the story gaining strength that Legal & General, seen as a National Westminster Bank target, could indulge in a defensive merger. BAT Industries is also thought to be

Chancellor to act in the next hovering with predatory intent. The one offer that did materialise, albeit an indicative

MARKET REPORT

Prospect of interest rate cuts sends shares to new high

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter of the year

rumours. With Cazenove and Barclays de Zoete Wedd mak-

British Aerospace made fur-ther headway on the planned wilted in the face of yet more speculation about the inten-tions of its 20 per cent share-holder, LVMH. The French Orange flotation and the rumoured United Arab Emiluxury goods group has denied it has any plans to lower its Guinness involvement. But rates contract, climbing 19p to 820p. Rolls-Royce, a likely beneficiary of any UAE deal, rose 3p to 178.5p.
Great Universal Stores was stories that it is preparing an important deal continue to flow in Paris. Inevitably, there the subject of more buy-back

is the suspicion that it needs to utilise the cash from any reduction of its Guinness thirst. There was also a French connection to Enterprise Oil, up 13p to 356p. Elf Acquitaine, the French oil group, sits on

3p to 170.5p.
The engineer L Gardner, placed at 125p, made an impressive debut, reaching 146p: achieved a 5p premium at 105p. Queensborough, the losp. Queensoorough, the leisure group, returned to market at 29p with trading nudging 7 million shares.

The cider groups recovered

their Budget losses. Matthew Clark jumped 29p to 655p as Panmure Gordon decided the shares were mispriced and moved into the market. HP Bulmer gained 10p to 494p. Breweries failed to hold their Budget ferment, with Bass falling 10p to 687p. Retailers continued to suffer from

ing encouraging noises ahead of next week's figures, the shares gained 14p to 615p.
Lloyds Chemists, up 11p to
268p, remained under the spec5.5p at 447.5p.

produced the signalled corpo-rate deal, with the ex-Cope All-man chief, Richard Grogan, buying 27.9 per cent and join-ing the board. He picked up the shares from Hambros and Hambro Countrywide at 20p. Hambros and Hambro Countrywide are bidding 20p for up to 27.9 per cent of the rest of SCH, up 7.5p to 23.5p. Antonov, the AIM-listed

group developing an automatic gearbox, enjoyed another run, up 20p at 108p. There are rumours that it is near to announcing a deal with a big motor group. But such stories have often circulated since it arrived, at 40p, on the old 4.2 share market in May.

managers in Edinburgh, put on 3p to 170.5p.

The engineer L Gardner, placed at 125p, made an impressive debut managers in Edinburgh, put on on the back of the absence of any "windfall" tax.

South Country Homes, a classic shell situation, at last with Merrill Lynch and contact the contact that the contact the contact that the contact the contact that the contac Panmure Gordon keen on the shares. But a deal for 900,000 shares at 505p caused the ex-citement. Capital is expected to lift profits from £26.5m to £32.5m this year and could hit £37m next. PG has apparently been keen on the shares for some time; Merrill has just returned them to its

> ☐More O'Ferrall, the poster company where Roger Parry, ex-Aegis, is due to become chief executive, is attracting some discreet takeover whispers. The group lacks a dominate shareholder and could find a determined assault difficult to resist.

	Abbey National 3	points, it closed 6.7 higher at 3,655.5. Abbey, the Budget day star, remained in demand on the	was little channed at 606m-	the French oil group, sits on 12.93 per cent and is thought to be keen to realise its in- vestment. But Enterprise lurks a long way from its year's high.	268p, remained under the spec- ulative whip, and the builder YJ Lovell again attracted keen buying, gaining 3p to 25p. British Steel, meeting fund	5.5p at 447.5p. Lower interest rate hopes helped builders higher but many utilities failed to hold much of the progress achieved	share market in May. British Biotechnology, interim figures today, jumped 50p to 1.043p and Thy Options, figures tomorrow, added 3p to 110p. assault difficult to resist. Profits hit £9.5m last year and should top £13m this year. The shares were little changed at 452p.
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Factions begin battle for the fractions

GREG WOOD

tange Rates

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The Chancellor devoted just 86 words of his Budget speech on Tuesday to the problems of the racing industry, but there was every indication yesterday that its factions will be arguing about them until Christmas and beyond. Outsiders might feel that it should not be difficult to split £65m in two, or even three, ways and still keep everyone happy. In the twilight zone of racing politics, however, the first casualty of war is common sense.

By ignoring calls from both racing administrators and the bookmakers for a cut in betting duty of two per cent or more, Kenneth Clarke has ensured that both sides of the industry are now returning to their trenches for a protracted battle over the one per cent he did relinquish. To add to the confusion, he has also parachuted greyhound racing into no-man's land, eager for its own piece of

Punters tune in to Song

Richard Dunwoody's mount, Chief's Song, was heavily backed yesterday for the William Hill Handicap Hurdle

at Sandown on Saturday.
The sponsors cut their price for Simon Dow's horse from 14-1 to 13-2 clear second favourite. Ladbrokes laid him to lose over £40,000, cutting their odds to 7-1 from 10-1.

The latter firm eased the favourite, Birnsey out to 7-2 from 3-1, despite confirmation that Reg Akehurst's five-yearold will run. Doubts had arisen because Bimsey's weight had been put up 4lb without connections or punters knowing.

RESULTS HEREFORD

12.50; 1. BUTTERCLP JOE (W Marston) 5-2.1 fev; 2. Mr Kernnit 50-1: 3. Hardy Weather 33-1. 15 ran. 5. 15. ID Nicholson). Tota: 53.40; £1.50, £10.20. £4.30. DF: £239.80. CSF: £102.33. The not won. A pool of £338.02 camed forward to the 3.00 race at

1.20; 1. HURRYUP (R Durwoody) 9-1; 2. Crarty Chaptain 5-1; 3. Cyvill Henry 7-2. 6 ran. 11-8 fav Fair Brother (felt), 3, dist. (R Dickn). Toke: \$10.50; \$2.50, \$1.90, DF: \$15.00, CSF:

1.50: 1. HO-JOE (B Ferror) 6-1; 2. Latin Leader 9-1; 2. Dontdressfordinner 7-1, 15 ran. 7-2 tay Sip A Con (Ouled up), 3, 6, (3 Yardisy), Tota: £7.20; £2.10, £4.40, £4.00.; DF: £38.80, CSF: £62.69. Inc: £74.00.; 2.20: 1. BRAES OF MAR (M.A. Ricgeralt) 6-4: 2. Ground Nat 7-1: 3. Devleyfordibey 20-1. 5 mar. 5-6 for Lemon's Mitt (Lell). 4, dist. VI Henderson). Totae 2:5-50: £1.80, £2.40. DF: £5.90. CSF: £11.26.

DE: 15.90. LSF: 111.26.
2.50: 1. CAWARRA BOY (Mr E James) 31; 2. Prairie Grove 10-1; 3. Valisty 5-2 fav.
18 ran. 1-3, 1-1/4. IC James). Totae £4.90;
130, 63.50, 11.50, £2.60. DF: £3.80. CSF:
£33.98. Tricast: £83.49. Tric: £27.50.

3.20: 1. CANTORES FRATER (W Merston) 8-1; 2. Highway Five 25-1; 3. Three of Clubs 20-1. 11 ran. 7-4 fay Celto Siker (4th. 15, 10 Msc 18 Fernan) Tothe (6 50 £1 90 £6 40) 10. IMS / Panan. Total: 15.50; £1.50, 16.40, 64.50. DF: £87.90. CSF: £163.33. Tricast: £3.498.38. This: £227.00 - part won. Pool of £291.03 carried forward to Leicester today. 3.50: 1. BADGER'S LANE (R Durwoody) 5 1.50°C. Baddeer's Line (Numbook) 12. Harlequin Chorus 10-1; 3. Brastley May 9-1. 17 ran. 11-4 fav Golden Drum (5th). 1, nl. (N. Bairey). Totas: 26.30; £2.80, £3.00. £5.50. DF: £83.50. CSF: £57.93. Thos £162.70. After a stewards' inquiry the placings

RICHARD EDMONDSON **NAP: Ramstar** (Windsor 3.10) NB: Zajira

CATTERICK

1.00: 1. DESERT FIGHTER (M Hermgon) 9-4 fay; 2. Abte Player 5-2; 3. Fly To The End 9-2. 6 ran. 12, ¹2; (Mrs M Reveley). Tota: £3.20; £1.30, £2.10, DF; £3.20, CSF; £8.13. 1.30; 11.30; 22.10; DF: 23.20; CSF: 13.01; LSI.3; 1.30; 1.10; WSDOM (A S Smith) 8-1; 2. In Good Falth 6-1; 3. Delty Boy 50-1. 21 ren. 11.8 fav Eden Dancer (4th), 2-1;, 5. (K Morgan), Toke 510.80; E2.40, £1.90, £13.00, DF: £32.90, CSF: £51.31, Trio: £1.70.20. 2.00: 1. FLASH OF REALM (3 Cohif) Eversion: 2. Evening Rain 4-1; 3. North Pride 14-1. 6 ran. 7, 24₂. (9 Mortent). Total: £2.00; £1.10, £3.50, DF: £4.40. CSF: £5.30. 2.30: 1. KNARERNEY BOY (P Neer) 5-1; 2. Brachestisweits 5-1: 3. Deep Deam 14-1. 13 rm. 7-2 for Entitoron (unseeled noish. Hd. nk. (Mrs M Rweiey). Totac: 15, 10; 52.90. £1.40, £2.80. DF: £10.40, CSP: £31.99. To-cast: £318.38. Trac: £43.00.

Stop The Waller 4-1; 3. Andros Prince 16-1. 11 ran. 7-2 fav Westwell Boy (4th). 1³4. 5. U Tumer), Totas: £6.30; £2.10, £2.70, £2.50. DF: £21.30, CSF: £26.78, Treast: £307.25. Tre: £123.10.

3.30: 1. BRDAD OUTLOOK (G Herker) 50-1: 2. Marmdon Rock 4-7 fay; 3. Bellie Rose 3-1. 10 ram. 4, 15; (M Smith). Total: £52.00; £51.0, £1.80, £1.80. DF: £25.80. CSF: £79.38. Tho: £30.30. Place 5: £55.09. Place 6: £84.63. Quadpot: £7.00. Placepot: £120.90

12.10: 1. PEGGY SPENCER (Dean McKer) 8-11 (av. 2. Scissor Ridge 16-1; 3. Yo 1-8.33-1. 10 ran. 3¹2, nt. (C Thomson). Total (1.9); £1.40, £2.30, £4.60, DF: £13.30, CSF: £13.81, NR: Dalcross, Tric: £26.00. 12.40: 1 EASY CHOICE (A Clark) 9-4 fes; 2. Kastin Homm 3-1; 3. Awasha 8-1. 7 ran. 1½, 1¾, (P Machell, Toter £3.30; £1.80, £1.80. DF: £3.40. CSF: £9.10. NR: Raffles Rooster. 1.10: 1. BALLYNAMELLY (T. Achtey) 5-2 inc.
2. Just-Manoa-Mou 10-1; 3. H*Antl 4-1. 14
ren. 10, nr. (R. Achteys). Toke: £5.01; £2.30.
£2.50, £1.90. DF: £56.90. CSF: £31.37. Tecast: £101.73. NRS: Alpine Storm, Rose
Crime. Inc: £49.70.

8 fax. 7 ram. 2 2, 1 1 2. (G Lewis). Total: £6.9 £1.80, £2.50. DF: £9.60. CSF: £31.41. 2.10: 1. MR NEVERSIAND IS Wintworth
6-4 R fav; 2. Nordic Doll 7-1; 3. Responded
Son 25-1 7 ran. 6-4 R fav Lign; Ferntastic.
5-6. IG L Moore). Totas: £1.80; £1.40, £3.30.
DF: £7.10. CSF: £11.97. NR: Arazo. 2.40: 1 COLEREDGE (J Quinn) 2-1 fav; 2. 2-90; 1 COLEMBRE O COUNT 2-1 Set 2. Mirosaudi 100-30; 3. Supreme Star 5-2. 9 ran. (, 11 U Sheeler). Totac 52-20; 51-50. 52-30, 51-10. DF: 55-40. CSF: 59-55. Tri-cast £16.37. Tric: £11.80.

ast 116.37. THO: E11.80.
3.10: 1. TURGAMAIA (T Ashley) 33-1; 2. Apollo Red 4-1; 3. Fort Knox 7-2. 11 ren. 11-4 fav By The Bay. 1-2. 5. (R Ingam). Total F40.30; 66.0; 61.70, 61.70. DY: £124.50. CSF; £161.08. Tho: £83.30.

COT: L151.UR. INC: E35.30.
3.40: 1. SUPEROO (A Cuhane) 5-1; 2. Four of Spades 14-1: 3. Mediate 1.6-1: 15 res. 7-2 fav Fiefr of Vision. 57 hd., nk. [Mis. P. Syl., Tote: 66.00; 61.30, 67.60, 65.60. OF: 551.80, 655: £73,98. Thoast: £980.07. Nor. £247.70.

the action. And this is what happens when he's actually trying

to give money away. To be fair to the parties in-volved the Chancellor's one per

cent, offered on the understanding that it must "he spread between the betting industry and horse and greyhound racing", puts them in an impossible position. The bookmakers want to pass the cut on to punters (who will then, of course, pass most of it back again) by cutting deductions to nine per cent. This, they argue, would stimulate betting, and thus as-sist racing - horses and dogs via the percentage of turnover handed on by the bookies to the

sports they depend on. The British Horseracing Board, however, wants a portion of the reduction to pass directly to the Levy and feels that the Chancellor's words back it up. We put the case for a duty reduction embracing both a reduction in the price of betting to the consumer and a transfer from duty to Levy." Tristram

LEICESTER

1.00 Reine De La Chasse

2.00 LITTLE TOM (nap)

12.30 Ocean Hawk

1.30 Luks Akura

SIS RACING

Ricketts, the BHB's chief ex-centive, said yesterday. "He that the Chancellor, with his somewhat mischievous sense has responded very positively to that principle and we now wish

to see it implemented." Yet as the bookies point out. a cut in their deductions of less than one per cent is impractical. "You can't pass on fractions," Tom Kelly, of the Betting Office Licensees Association, said. "If we put the money into the marketplace to stimulate turnover, everyone will benefit."

2.30 French Myle

3.30 Fly By North

3.00 Karshi (nb)

GOING: Greet to Soft on hurdles course, Good to Firm (Firm in planes) on class course.

Right-hand, including course, with a straight rifle.

Racecourse is 2 notes southeast of cry off Air Leavester railway station (Leavena, St. Paneras, Shofffeld into over 2 notes away. ADMISSION: Unit 51.2; Taitersails 58; Silver Ring 51, (accompanied under-16s free). CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Pipe — 18 winners, from 68 curriers gives a success ratio of 25.7% and a level to a \$1 level stake of \$25.87. Mrs J Pitansis — 13 winners, 55 curriers, 25.6%, -\$10.02; D Nicholson — 12 winners, 30 curriers, 30 shortened — 5 winners, 13 runners, 38 7%, +\$18.24.

43150.04; O Sherwood — 5 winners, 13 runners, 18 7%, +518.24.

ELEADING JOCKEYS: R Danwoody — 11 winners, 58 rides, 19.0%, 526-10; A Maguire—9 winners, 56 rides, 16.1%, 422.16; W Marston — 7 winners, 42 rides, 16.7%, +515.21; N WIIIiamson — 6 winners, 34 rides, 17.4%, -52.70; WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Prophets Honour (1.09) won at bisoxeter on Thursday, Steadfast Ellie (1.30 won at Bangor on Friday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: To Prove A Point (1.00) & Steadfast Ellie (3.30) have been sent 183 miles by J J O'Neill from Skelton Wood End, Cambrin: Change Encounter (1.30) has been sent 191 miles by Mrs S O Williams from Martansleigh, Devon.

12.30 BEGINNERS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,000

... J R KavacagG Upto

added 3YO 2m Penalty Value £2,637

RO JUST BY CHANCE (SB) (Duckhaven Stud) A Barrow 10 12

PARKLIFE (RRC) (Carren Cofo P Hecton 10 12

O XMPETE (RRC) (19) (Ass Susan Moore) G Moore 10 12

O ZINGBAR (47) (D Holpm') Bradley 10 12

2362 CURLIN CAPPER (28) (RT Wasson) T Weston 10 7

FORTIMERS ROSE (RRC) (MS A) Gometol J Mrg 10 7

PSP HUSSH CROSS (15) (P J Westom') S Krught 10 7

LADY KATE (USA) (A J Recreate) K Currengleum-Brown 10 7

LADY KATE (USA) (A J Recreate) K Currengleum-Brown 10 7

35 PEDALIUTHEMETUL (RRC) (12) (G R Hartis P Microel 10 7

P PHILS FORTURE (40) (Deblage) Construction (10) is Bradewater 10 7

SALFRILL (RRC) (R Braden) Mrs P Sy 10 7

— 19 decisered —

BETTING: 9-4 Ocean Hawk, 7-2 Last Laugh, 6-1 Clean Edge, 10-1 Lasty Kate, 12-1 Pedaltori al, 14-1 Culfin Caper, 27 Don, Fortness Rose, 16-1 Others.

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

This softesh ground is similar to that at Bangor on 7 October, when OCEAN HAWK was only seventh to Royale Angela, but lack of a recent outing might have been to biams for that performance. If he runs like he has done in two races at Assot, Ocean Hawk must be difficult to beat. Pladalitothessetal was nine lengths behind Ocean Hawk in the Ascot race won by Paddy's Return but is 3to better off and, of the two, could improve more for the run. Whate Orean Haw' has run his two best races at Ascot, Cutilin Caper seems to prefer Market Rase. "We she firmshed second to Altime Dancer on her debut and to Asking a month ago. Cutilin Lager ""> "hat it takes to win a race of this sort but she will have to improve to get the better of Ocean Hawk."

Selection: OCEAN HAWK

BEGINNERS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,000 added

1994; Plunder Bay 3 10 12 A Maguere 3-1 (D Nucho

1.00 BELLING SHOWN SHOWN

F PAIS NAME (1975 to Mass 1975 to Mass 1975

stirring things up. The 1 March deadline for an agreement between the various parties, after which the concession could be lost, also adds spice. Yet as they try to do a deal, both racing and the bookmakers would do well to remember precisely why they are in this situation.

of humour, could not resist

There is, after all, a common enemy, which at present seems You could almost believe to be employing the principle of

"divide and rule" to considerable effect. Without the National Lottery, both sides of the industry would be looking for-ward to a period of growth and prosperity, thanks to the fiveyear deal on Levy contributions, secured in 1994, which seemed to prove that the days of bickering were over. Everyone, it seemed then, could plan for the future with confidence.

instead, just a year after the launch of the Lottery, many bet-

ting shops are on the brink of Bank's chance to lay the ghost

Anyone whose Boxing Day was ruined last year by Barton Bank's last-fence fall when 12 yesterday. Last year's lucky winner Allengths clear in the King George VI Chase at Kempton will have the chance to relive the experience all over again this March, Martha's Son. One

Man and the Irish hopes, Sound The 1993 winner of the race Man and Merry Gale. was installed 4-1 favourite by William Hill after an entry of 19 Michael Webster said: "With

was announced for the big race—such a wealth of top class entries from three different countries, the 1995 King George looks cergan is in the field, as are Mas- tain to be not only the mid-seater Oals, who won the son championship of chasing, Cheltenham Gold Cup in but also one of the great inter-

national horse races."

- 13 declared
SETTING: 2-1 Reline de La Chaese, 4-1 Night Time, 5-1 Prophets Homer, 9-1 Court John, 10-1 Stepy
Dam, 12-1 Last Spin, Toshika Tata, 14-1 To Prove A Point, 16-1 others.
See Dassan One.

FORM GUIDE

A winner on the Flat in France, REINE DE LA CHASSE was unlocky not to win first time over hurdles at Weltherby, where a bud instake time from home checked her progress and caused her to lose a shoe in the race won by Ciracusa. She can be given another chance. One that might make a race of it is Ciracusa's stablemare, Stepy Dans, Like Durid Nicrotson's filly, Stopy Dans was a beatien towardle on its nurdes delat, at Mahret Race, but he ended the flat service in might be unions to judgetim simply on the Mahret Race nace. Others that can be tanced to no better after just the one nut over hurdles include Bank, "If Bits i, from a shole going as well as any just now, and Night Time and Last Spie, fourth and fifth in Volunteer's race at Kempton Selections REINE DE LA CHASSE.

1.30 BARKBY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,075

2 35-P65-5 SMANSHOM AL ARAB (RIE) (7) M/s Susan I Discor B Discor 7 11 12 Miles V Harigh 3 60102-5 TARGET LINE (20) (D) (BF) (Bramston Royal Oak Mrs 5 Sman 5 11 5 ... R Milesson (7) 5 13-60-09 SOUL TRADER (17) (D) (6 W HOSHING) IN Batchage 6 11 5 ... G Hoggin (3) 5 13-60-09 HAWITHORNE GLEN (9) (Mrs Gal Doscan Mrs M Ling 8 11 3 ... D Gallagher 6 14-200-5 LIMS ARARA (17) (D) (Mcdeton Scinen Investments Lint) in Oak 7 11 1 ... Lindson 7 0037-05 MASTER GLEN (153) (Mrs Gal Doscan Mrs M Ling 8 11 3 ... D Gallagher 3 005-05 MASTER GLEN (153) (Mrs Gal Doscan Mrs M Lindson (7) P Mildiger (3) 6 0653-60 EDWARD SSYMBOUR (USA) (15) (Mr Jenkel W Jenks 8 10 12 Mrs R Burton (7) 9 41-400-5 NLONDINE (IRE) (14) (IR Bracer Mrs P Ry 5 10 12 R Mrs R Burton (7) 11 4-34591 PHARITH (12) (Bel Darect R Proc 9 10 4 ... Link Religion (7) 11 4-34591 PHARITH (12) (Bel Darect R Proc 9 10 4 ... Link Religion (7) 13 0007-53 QUICK OECSSION (IRE) (13) (Mrs E M Cressoria) 1 Cressed 4 10 2 R Missey (5) 14 00000 CHARGE ENCOUNTER (12) (an Abrahams Mrs S Wilkers 5 10 0 R Missey (5) 15 00000 CHARGE ENCOUNTER (12) (an Abrahams Mrs S Wilkers 5 10 0 R Missey (5) 15 0-2405 MARD TO GET (5) (Ms Caron Stokeli M Barradoug 8 10 0 ... Arm Stokeli

981. BETTENC: 7-2 Sord Trador, 4-1 Luks Akura, 6-1 Penlarth, 8-1 its Graed, 9-1 Target Line, Clod Hop-per, 12-1 Shamshom Al Arab, 14-1 others. 1994: no corresponding race

FORM GLEDE

FORM GLBDE
On his reoppearance here in the race won by Brobs Ot Mar, LUIKS ARURA was up against it from 12to out of the handicap, but he could be that into bit finter today and the drop in class must help. Klondike won a 15-runner conditions seller at Sedgefield about this time lest year but struggled in handicaps oftenwards, finishing a long way behind Luke Akura when Ball Clay's horse beat all but Fire Flags in a field of 21 at Notingham in March. Klondike was also well beaten in a selling handicap at Warwick on his first run of the season, but finishing fifth of 18 behind Convoy might not have been a bad offort, especially as Klondike comed 5to overweight. Like Luke Akura and Klondike, its Grand will come on for his come-back run behind Comin Hill at Hereford and could be thereabours gatting weight from all bar Hard Yo Get and Klingswood Kitchens.

Selection: LUKS AKURA

2.00 SILVER BELL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £5,090

BETTING: 9-4 Mr Flanagan, 7-2 Philip's Woody, 5-1 Wiso Approach, 6-1 Bishops Island, Little Tom 9-1 Landsker Missile, 10-1 Currarder, 12-1 Chichel's Herst.

322413- CHICHELL'S HURST (194) (D) (Mrs P Sty) Mrs P Sty 9 10 2

1994; Mr Entenamer 11 10 12 M Fitzgerald 4-1 (N A Gasetse) 7 ran

Man and the Irish hopes, Sound fan and Merry Gale.

Kempton's clerk of the course fichael Webster said: "With Son, One Man, Others on request.

closure, and the Levy Board is planning deep cuts in its expenditure, it is potentially a mortal threat to racing, which should concentrate minds both within the sport, and among those who depend on it. To date, the BHB has been

sceptical about many of the bookmakers' ideas to increase non-racing, and therefore non-Levy, turnover. It may now be time to realise that a betting shop equipped with fruit machines, for example, is more use to racing than a closed betting shop. The campaign to allow bookmakers to compete fairly with Camelot needs support from the whole industry. The bookmakers, in return,

might allow part of the Trearemainder used to promote turnover in other ways - better place terms on each-way bets. and so on. The losers, of course. is, perhaps, preferable to have worth paying.



Kelly: cut tax in the shops

ing little or no racing to bet on at all. Meanwhile, the struggle must continue for further relief in the next Budget.

executive director of the British Greyhound Racing Board. "We must try and see things from sury's money to return to rac-ing (of both varieties), with the said. In the face of the awesome force of the Lottery, unity of purpose is paramount. If the only result of Tuesday's tax cut is a return to the squabbling of old, we may soon wonder if, would be the punters, still pay-ing "tax" at 10 per cent, but this even for £65m, it was a price



The most sense yesterday came from Geoffrey Thomas, over from Lanny Wadkins, whose one match in charge re-

sulted in Europe regaining the trophy by the smallest possible ahead of Larry Nelson, Hale Ir-

Palmer." That was in 1963.

anyone. It was very stressful form to their standard. I would not wish that loss on anybody."

Seve Ballesteros is expected to succeed Bernard Gallacher as European captain for the match at Valderrama, but no decision will be taken at today's meeting of the Ryder Cup Committee in London and it could be next summer before an announcement is made.

"There's been a lot of speculation about Seve being captain," Kite said. "But whether he is or not I cannot imagine a Ryder Cup in Spain without him being heavily involved.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for him and everything he has done for golf worldwide. I always enjoyed competing against him because you know you are competing against one of the best. If he is chosen I am sure he will have the same type of attitude for the team as he has for his own game. He has that little bit of swagger and cockiness."

opponent himself. In his seven appearances he never lost in the singles. Even when Sandy Lyle played 16 holes in eight under par at Walton Heath in 1981 Kite played them in 10 under. The defending champion. Nick Faldo, is one of six players from the 12-man field who are in the world's top 10 for The Sun City Million Dollar Challenge which begins today in South Africa. In all, seven players who took part in the Ryder Cup are competing.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Division; Dundalk v Athlone Town (7.45). Divisions: Duringer v Arthone Town (7.45). PONTINS LEAGUE First Divisions Oldhern Ari-letic v Sheffield Wednesday (7.0); Stoke City v Blackburn Rovers (7.0). Postponned (Binese): Nottungham Forest v Leeds Utd. Second Di-visions: Hull City v Aston Villa (7.0); Coventry City v Grimsby Town (7.0). AVON INSURANCE COMPUNATION FIRST

SECOND TEST (First day of five, including Sunday): South Ainca v Engand (8.30em state) at the Wanderers ground, Johannesburg).

ice hockey BRITISH LEAGUE Pirst Division: Medway Bears v Manchester Storm (8.15); Swindon Wildcats v Chelmsford Chieftains (8.15).

Other sports

The minutes (9hr 10min) that the Ajax football team spent in their aircraft before finally leaving on a 12-hour flight from Toyko to Amsterdam. The first flight had to turn back to

Horse Racing

Results 0839 - 111 171

LINGFIELD

_G Up

Leff long and Gur. Upton have reamed up to get a lew womens recently so LITTLE TOM might be worth instering in a race where most of the numers look slightly suspect one way or another. It is difficult to know how good Little Tom in the language and did not sparkle when restricted to just two outlings last season. In the control of the today. Con the language and the language and is back oner the right son of the today. Con the language than Little Tom last season, firsting third, despite a slipping sod. In the Palilip's Woody won at Tauriton in September. Controller is 14th better off for just over eight lengths but it is possible he will need the outing, whereas there are no fitness doubts sumounding Philip's Woody. This season began brightly enough for Wilse Approach with wins at Market Rasen and Wincanton and the heavy gound way ground way protoably responsible for him being pulled up at Newbury only last. Saturday. Was Approach needs to avoid the mistakes that led to talks at Wincanton and Chebenham.

Selection: LITTLE TOM

10 MISS OPTIMIST (232) The Pough Partnership D Nacholson 5 10 7. - 20 DECEMBE - 5-2 Karshi, 7-2 Mr Bursancrat, 6-1 Hazard A Guess, 7-1 Kingdom Of Shades, 8-1 Star Perforator, 10-1 Bright November, 12-1 Miss Opticulst, 24-1 Jonaton Puddleduck, 18-1 others. 1994: Person Brace 4 10 12 N Marm 1-7 IM Bell) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

2.30 JOHN O'GAUNT MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3m Penalty Value £2,832

- 6 declared -BETTING: 11-6 Doke Of Lancaster, 7-2 Declaredien, 4-1 Pond House, 5-1 Airtrak, 16-1 Franch Myle.

FORM GUIDE

DUKE OF LANCASTER has a proprier practice than most after finishing second to The Bud Club at Uniceties. He is from an in-form, chable and can be expected to improve. The Bud Club is trained by Kim Basey, who tres this time with **Drimmorthers**. He was a long way bettind Addington Boy at Bangor that is an instruction-point wither and might be capable of better. French Myle has three point-to-point with in fine and to his credit and he will find this far easier than the nounce chase of Wordester won by Bett, 's Boy.

Selection: DUKE OF LANCASTER

3.00 KNIGHTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £3,225

PO SP WAR FLOWER (RE) (12) Shert Study A Carol 7 10 11 ...

25-1 War Rower. 1994: Breathal 6 11 0 4 Vag. 19 7-4 D Vote stor 5 for

KARSHI made all to win a division of the novice hundle is Warwick a formight ago and Mir Bu-reasocrat led from start to firish at Uttowater first time out, so it will be interesting to see who comes off best in that particular contest. Mir Bureaucrat won at up to a mile in New Zealand. comes on best in that particular contest, Mr Eureauchat with at up to a mee in New Zealand, whereas karshi stayed a mile and six on the flat as a three-year-old; he might just get home better of the two. Between them, Karshi and Mr Bureauchat should ensure a truly-run race, which might suit Djalis, a winner at up to a mile and seven on the flat in France and who rooed in Group races there last year. He could turn out better than he showed at Sandown back me February. Hazand A Guess was a decent 10-fining handicapper on the Flat who can be expected to pay his way over hundles after an encouraging third to Master Beveled at Ayr, while Kingdom Of Stalides can be fanced to win a race or two, having finished fifth of 23 behand the face of the could be a statement (ABSH).

hand Robert	Lea at Wetherby on his only run so far.	Selection: KARSHI
3.30	WALTHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HA (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Va	INDICAP HURDLE
1 (F-22212 2 25/00-6 3 5510-3F 4 164403- 5 1-14P1 6 22024F- 7 FP00-21	MOST EQUAL (29) (b) (8F) (Hearu Kirpalani) M Pipe 5 12 0 FLY BY NORTH (USA) (26) Ford Farm Recing D Nicholson 7 11 BANANA COVE (RRE) (40) (5 F Charley) W Clay 4 11 10 WICEROY RILLER (194) (b) (1 McBarnon) J Jentons 4 11 8 SASSINER (USA) (8) 80) (7 A Naleway) P February 5 11 6 (Ged GENERAL TORIC (336) (Statight Racing) D Gardollo 8 11 5 STEADFAST ELITE (RRE) (8) (2) Claymon J J O'Neil 4 10 13 (Geal CHRISTS GLEN (8) (8) (7) (The Tore End Recing Calo) J Bradley 6 1	
9 013//P0	RUN FAST FOR GOLD (19) Nais D J Hodges) MSs H kneys 8 11 SALLSONG (8) (CD) (John Whyle) John Whyle 6 10 4	046FRyan
	do total	

RETUNG: 6-2 Most Equal, 3-1 Sassiver, 9-2 Fy By North, 6-1 General Torks, 8-1 Steamfast Elite, 12-1 Vicercy Roler, 14-1 Chris's Glea 25-1 others. 1994: Glowing Path 4 10 4 T Jenks 11-1 (R I Hodges) 7 rain

Last season, STEADFAST ELITE locked off with a win in a selier at Market Rasen then soon went off the boal - but it could be a different story this time round after her close second to Deuliy at Ayr and a comfortable win at Bangor last week, when she was dropped back into a seller. Wearing blankers for the first time, Sassilver was not troubled by the switch to two a seer, we are quiest for the test time, seesawer was not notice by the switch to two mides at Windsor last week, when he made all and beat Salisong four lengths. Despite the penalty, Sassiver could be difficult to peg back here, although Salisong is 6th better off and may still have needed the Yandsor run, so he is not without a chance. The big weight and softer ground might put sind out the correspent Most Equal, but Fly By North will have benefited from his Wincarton run behind Lightening Lad.

Selection: STEADFAST ELITE

WINDSOR

12.40 Inculcate 1.10 Dominie 1.40 Seod Rioga 2.10 Eez-Away 2.40 Master Beveled 3.10 Ram-star 3.40 Zajira

GOING: Guod to firm.

Figure-of-cight course Level, with sharp turns, and long straights, and a 200yd run-n.

Raccourse is north of town on A306 near junction 6 of M4.
Radway statuons at Windsor Central (service from London, Paddington) and Windsor Riverside (service from London, Waterloo) are less than 1 mile stays, liver but stops at course. AD-MISSION: Club \$12; Tattersalls \$8; Silver Ring \$4. CAR PARK: Club \$22 remainder \$1.50 or \$1.

WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None.

LONG-DISTANCE KUNNERS: Ubuval (1.40) has been sent 196 mics
by W Bethell from Arnold, Rumberside, Master Bevosled (2.40) has
been sent 159 miles by P D Exans from Leighton, Povys 159; Shirley's
Train (2.10), Emmster (3.10) & Jenzsoph (3.40) have been sent
145 miles by P J Hobbs from Hilbrook, Somerset.

Ì	[]	2.40	OAKLEY GREEN NOVICE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,800 a	HURDL dded 2n
	-	500 604	TIGHT FIST (17) Mass H Knght 5 11 7	i Osbor
ı	1 1	205-451	ART TATUM (7) R Harmon 4 11 0	G McCo
	2	4	AND IAILUS (7) K PARENT A 11 V ANNOUNCE	R CHIE
	3	0	CHILL HEIGHTS (14) G Beiting 5 11 0	الملا ساسات
	4	2320-02	PICLECATE (14) C Weedon 4 11 0	M Dicker
1	5	34/F055-	RITENTION (352) P Hedger 5 11 0	n Mer
1	6	5	JAAZDA (19) M Hadguck 5 11 0	
ı	7	P4-P0	RED CHANGES (15) T Casey 5 11 0	بأسادا والسد
J	8		CERTIFIER CORPORAL D.F. CAR & 11 ()	
1	9	534.4	TEMEDIA MAR JOHN CON T FORCE 4 11 D	
J	10	***	THE SECURE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY / 11 I	I
ł		310000	WALEST MAR STATE (SIND) H VOMP (11 U	صون نے
ı	11	32042	OPENDIG ROUGE N Berry 4 10 9	A S S
ı	12		- 12 declared -	
- 1			- 10 Minutes -	44

Chill Heights, Widstling Buck, Serious Option, 16-1 others.
1.10 PANGBOURNE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m 4f
1.10 (CI ASS F) £2.600 added 2m 4f
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- 15 deciared BETTING: 3-1 Seed Riags, 7-2 Sherfort Lad, 5-1 Pestiswood, 6-1 Going
Around, 10-1 Church Law, 12-1 Sensitive Riag, 14-1 Grand Applause, 18-

17	040	EDO STOY HAYWARD HANDICAP CHASE
Ŀ	<u> </u>	BDO STOY HAYWARD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m
1	630-111	HEZ-AWAY (118) (O) Capt T Forse: 6 12 0
2		TUDOR FABLE (648) (D) N Henderson 7 11 3 Osborne
3		SHIPLEY'S TRAIN (127) (BIF) P Hotos, 6 11 3 Peter Hotobs
4		1LEWIN (18) (CO) M Ahem 8 11, 2
5		DRIVING FORCE (8) (CD) Mrs M McCourt 9 11 2 6 McCourt
6	221 322	DEAR DO (16) (D) (BF) N Henderson 8 10 11 M A Pitzgarald
7		FRANKUS (5) (D) S Moltar 6 10 5Chris Webb (5)
8	215F4P-	PERMARINE (194) (D) Mrs A Woodrow 12 10 4 A Thornton
		_ D declared _

10	140	QAKLEY GREEN NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS
4	2.40	E) (DIV II) £2,800 added 2m
ī		MASTER BEVELED (20) (D) P Evens 5 11 7 A P McCoy
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3		2AY BOB (18) T Casey 6 11 0 E Marphy
4	4/26-P	BIETSCHEHORIK BARD (29) D Gandolfo 5 21 ()Mr Dwyer
Б	PPIDPO-6	KONE'S GOLD (19) Mas I. Richards 5 11 0
6		MONSBELIN BROOKS (15) R Stonge 5 11 0
7		NEW ALBION (280) N Henderson 4 11 0
Ř		MART IN A MELLION (18) 5 Woodman 4 11 0 A Thorston
9		STARLIGHT FLYER (12) / Long 8 11 0
10	-	WOTTASSWARELES L Montague Hall 4 11 0
11	-	LADY LACEY (14) G Baiding 8 10 9
12		PRIDE OF HAYLING (7) P Hedger 4 10 9B Powell
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		Section 7.4 Large land is a Miller 6.4 New

1 111/50-5 2 19404-1 3 1-31101 4 50205-1 5 413211- 6 052111-	DORNIEY AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAS CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 5 RILESHIN (B) H Mannes 9 12 0
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OCTUBIO D.A	Man Mood, 3-1 Ask The Governor, 7-2 Resector, 8-1 Gles

Mirade, Royal Square, 16-1 Killeshin.

3.40 CRANBOURNE MARES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m		
1 68013-F JENGSOPH (18) P Hobbs 4 11 11		
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3 60412-4 JOSEPHA (22) M McCorrack 4 11 4		
A 611655- SMART IN SABLE (222) P Hedger 8 11.2		
5 13022-0 SOPHE MAY (12) G1 Moore 4 11.1		
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7 546PP. MRS JANA EN FORD (284) (D) C Smail 7 10 12		
- 7 declared -		
RETTHE: 9-4 Jerzsoph, 4-1 Zojira, 9-2 Jostfina, 5-1 Forgetful, 6-1 Smert		
lo Sable, 8-1 Sophie May, 20-1 Vers Inviteyford.		

12.15 Southern Dominion 12.45 Spectacle Jim 1.15 Kalar 1.45 La Perruche 2.15 Quality 2.45 Chita Rivera 3.15 Vladivostok 3.45 No Speeches

STALLS: In outside, remainder unside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 7f.

Equitack course. Lett-hand, sharp undulating course of 1.25 mdes.

Rececourse is south-cast of train on 82028 Edembridge road.

Lingfield railway station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course.

ADMISSION: Members 51.2. Tatternalls 58; Silver Ring 54. CAR.

PARK: Club \$3; remainder free.

BLINEERED FIRST TIME: Sermonia (12.15), Don't Get Caught (3.15). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Southern Dominion (12.15) won at Lingfield on Saturday. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Stand Tall (12.15) has been sont 270 miles by C Thoroton from Middleham, N Yorks.

Minimum weight: 7st 7th, True handsop weight: Sansonie 7st 2th, BETTING: 7-2 Stand Tall, Southern Doralation, 5-1 Silvovitz, Serious Fact, Sharp Imp, 6-1 Halbert, 12-1 Moujech, 25-1 others.

12.45 FAUCETS GROHE RELAXA HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,900 added 5f

Ξ		
Γ	1 16	FAUCETS GROHE RELAXA SHOWER HTC
L	<u> </u>	FAUCETS GROHE RELAXA SHOWER HTC (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,900 added 5f
ī		NORDICO PROJEESS (24) (CC) M Bream 4 10 0_R Cochra
ž		KALAR (14) (CD) D Chapman 6 9 13 1 Dette
3		ROCKY TWO (20) (D) P Howing 4 8 11
ā		HALF TONE (62) (2) R Ploner 3 8 11
5		DAANERA (BE) (20) (CD) P Hoving 5 8 7 D Wingst (
6	034003	NEMBRISTON BUTTS (IRE) (10) K McAuette 5 8 3 C Duttie
7		TORRAY TEMPEST (87) (CD) R Peacock 6 8 1 A Marke
8	000-00	DIAMOND BANGLE (5) C Elsey 3 7 7 N Adam
		- 8 declared -
H	Grimum weig	nt. 7st 7tb. True hendicap weight: Diamond Bangle 7st 28

1.45 FAUCETS HOSPITA LEVER TAPS STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 270 Gf

EEN GEM (BEL) (30) S WALETIS 8 9. 043000 LATZIO (47) B Pearce 8 9....

2.15 FAUCETS GROHE AUTOMATIC NURSERY H'CAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 1m

num weight: 7st 7th. True handicap weight: Dregonloy 7st 5th. Efficacious In, Dealen Dencer 6st 9th. BETTING: 2-1 Quality, 9-4 Sweet Withelmina, 4-1 Humeland, 5-1 Drag-

•			sayare, 30-1 2400-2006, 00-1 Delete Delete	
	- [3	245	FAUCETS FOR GROHMASTER STAKES (CLASS F) £3,650 add	LIMITE
7 5 2	Ŀ		STAKES (CLASS F) £3,650 add	ded 2m
ž	1	444245	ENVIRONMENTALIST (IRE) (19) R Harrs 4 9 4_	A Mackey
	5	0-06002	CHITA RIVERA (24) P Malen 4 8 13	L Deltori
6 1 3 8	3	006:000	FLEUR DE TAL (542) W Turner 4 8 13	R Perham
ā	4	140030	DODDENSTON FLYER (22) R Hourshead 3 8 9 F	Cochrane
	â	320630	GUEST ALLIANCE (IRE) (20) A Moore 3 8 9_Ca	ady Mords
4 0 3	6	060	ZADOK (20) R Philips 3 8 9	.6 Duliteki
10	7	122360	HEVER COLF LADY (22) (CD) T Naughton 3 8 6.	S Sanders
	8	405526	ENDLESS FANTASY (22) C Cyser 3 8 4	D Bleets
A	9	0-65000	SHIPME DANCER (20) S Dow 3 8 4	A Daly (7)
8			- 9 declared -	
1 2	RE	TT:W2: 3-1:	Environmentalist, 7-2 Endless Featasy, 9-2 Her	er Golf Lad
2	Do	ddington P	yer, 5-1 Guest Allance, 8-1 Chita Rivera, 12-1	Flour de To
	25	-1 others	•	

3.15 FAUCETS SOLD A MILLION HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,150 added 6f						
	Ľ		(CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,150 added 6f			
	1	(165553)	DON'T GET CAUGHT (IRE) (16) J L Hams 3 10 2 8 Sandons	7		
	3	001606	LIFT BOY (USA) (26) (C) (D) A Moore 6 9 12 .Candy Morris	5		
	3	002464	OUR SHADEE (USA) (20) (CD) K Noy 5 9 11.C Scally (7) 1	3		
	4	0-00560	FASCINATION WALTZ (10) (CD) / Streetlen 8 9 10G Dufflele	ı		
	5	202306	RING THE CHEEF (96) M Lister 3 9 8	2		
	6	000000	DISTANT DYNASTY (107) (CD) B Pearce 5 9 6 T Ives 1	2		
	7	400504	ASSIGNMENT (136) (CD) I Long 9 9 4	ã		
	8	122100	COLSTON-C (60) (D) C Hell 3 9 4S Williamth 1	7		
	9	332360	KIRA (10) J Eyre 594R Lappin	ä		
	ìo	306550	TOURL (36) R Ingam 3 9 0	ĕ		
	11	00-0032	VLADIVOSTOK (6) B De Haan 5 B 13	ř		
	12	040400	MICRORA (22) (CD) J O'Donogrue 5 88	ā		
	13	DEDODE	BOHRY MELODY (20) Piters 486. Amenda Senders (7)	ä		
	~	********	- 13 declared -	•		
	BETTRIE: 9-2 Don't Get Caught, 5-1 Our Shadee, 6-1 Vladhostok, Tomal					

7-1 Lift Boy, Riest The Chief, 8-1 others. 2 45 FAUCETS FOR GROHE AMATEUR REDERS

Ŀ	740	H'CAP (CLASS G) £3,250 added 1m 4f
1	453306	TETHYS (28) (D) J Eyrs 4 11 7
5	026	FIGHTIPIG TIMES (27) C Smith 3 10 9
3		HOUTFALLY WOOD (19) J Hills 3 10 4 Miles E Johnson Mongaton 5
4	500212	NO SPEECHES (9) (C) (8F) S Dow 4 10 2Mr T McCarthy 8
5	354-300	RETENDER (USA) (24) (D) J Pasate 6 9 13Mrs L Poerce 4
6	306-135	MONTONE (RE) (9) J. Jerviens 5 9 9
7	165-04	STRAT'S LEGACY (20) (CD) D Arbutrot 6.9 2 Mrs D Adoptings 8
8	600000	MUTRIQUE (5) 8 Pearce 4 9 0
9	231500	DON'T DROP BOMES (20) (CD) D Thom 6 9 0 Miss J Felicies 2
10	ALEDDS.	PUBLISH 65 65 60 P Parcel 9 9 0 Mes C Bearest 75 1

BETTING: 11-4 No Speeches, 3-1 Straffs Legacy, 7-2 Knotally Wood, 5-1 Fighting Threes, Tethys, 10-1 Don't Drop Bombs, 12-1 Montone, 14-1 others.

Kite to captain **US** in **Spain**

Tom Kite was yesterday named as the man who will captain America when they try to win back the Ryder Cup in Spain in two years' time. And he hopes to be a playing captain. The 45-year-old Texan takes

margin, 14:-13:sin September. Kite, who emerged last week as the front-runner for the job win and Ben Crenshaw, has just had the worst season of his 23year career. "I hope it's just an aberration," he said, "and that l get my game back in shape. I would love to be the first playing captain since Arnold

"I watched this year's match and I was agonising as much as watching close friends not per-

Kite has been a formidable

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND PM

SECOND "TEST" (First day of five, includ-ing Sunday): Pakstan Av England A (5,0am stan) fat the NRL Ground, Rawalpindi).

TODAY'S NUMBER

550

Japan to refuel after being denied entry to Russian airspace. THE INDEPENDEN

> Commentary 0839 - 111 175



At 26 Brian Lara is already so wearied by the weight of public expectation that not even next year's World Cup excites him

stress implied by Brian Lara's refusal to turn out for the West Indies in Australia is that it would be endured happily by any number of

less fortunate people.

Probably, if the fact of Lara's disenchantment with continuous cricket was explained to the many millions worldwide who will never know a permanent roof over their heads and where the next handful of sustenance is coming from, he would be told to count his blessings and get on with the

Another point of view, one with which I have some sympathy, is that demands made on the best team players today, especially stars of Lara's brilliance, take lit-

One way of thinking about the tle or no account of the possibility of burn-out.

At just 26, Lara it scems, is already so wearied by the weight of public expectation, the prospect of being required to go on repeating feats that justify comparison with the greatest batsmen in history, that not even next year's World Cup excites him.

Despite the debilitating effect of a dispute with the West Indies management that resulted in the £2,000 fine he and three other players incurred this week for a breach of discipline, Lara left us last summer with the glorious memory of three centuries in the last three Tests. Nobody who saw it will ever forget the third, an epic ef-

What we now discover is that Lara walked out in mid-tour and had to be coaxed back into the team. You may suppose this to have been a childish fit of temperament but something rather more serious was suggested when he secured release from a contract to play a second season for War-wickshire and risked the wrath of

The promise of a break before the World Cup indicated that the West Indies were in sympathy with Lara's problem, so why select him for a comparatively unimportant tournament? Was their cut of the proceeds dependant on Lara's participation?

This, of course, is what sport, certainly cricket and football, has



come to; more or less a year-long grind with little or no opportunity for rest and recuperation. Doubtless many think it a privilege but there is a limit to what the leading performers can deliver. Locked into the agreements their em-

upon to appear before recovering from injuries. The painkillers any number are persuaded to take carry the threat of crippling arthritis.

People in individual sports have it better. If usually committed to a minimum number of events, they do not have to keep going out there. For example, more and more leading golfers these days ration their appearances. As Walter Hagen once put it, there is sense in taking time to stop and smell the

Getting back to Lara, a good question could be asked of cricketers from past generations. Did Sir Donald Bradman, Denis

Lara's behaviour? Tours were long out not as frequent. The impression you get now is that the authorities are concerned mostly with making a great deal of

In the light of recent history it is nanseating to hear them prattle on about moral obligations and responsibility to the public. Life is tougher underground and on an oil rig, and even in advanced societies the majority have a mundane existence, but there is often a price to pay for sporting prowess.

Last week, when speaking about

the dip in form a now revitalised Ryan Giggs experienced last season, the Manchester United man-

ployers reach with television and Compton and Sir Garfield Sobers ager, Alex Ferguson, wondered sponsors, they are often called ever feel the strain evident in whether it resulted from too much football. "I sometimes worry about the number of games they are asked to play," he said. A safe bet is that not many club chairmen share Ferguson's concern. Shamelessly, they suppose that by paying wages they are keeping to their end of the bargain.

pales Pila owring a gw code

An interesting feature of Lara's case is that presumably it involves the West Indies captain, Richie Richardson, who was recently granted time off to recover from what was thought to be a nervous breakdowu.

If something similar was not identified in Lara, there is even more cause to be fearful of where

SECOND TEST: Relentless rain clouds difficult England bowling selection. Martin Johnson reports from Johannesburg

Malcolm on the brink of honour or obscurity

Johannesburg at the moment is a very loud bang, which is likely to be caused by any one of three things. They are, in ascending order of like-lihood: a) a car backfiring b) someone being shot (there is a murder here every half an hour) and c) an extremely violent electrical thunderstorm.

There are also two distinct mysteries about this city, which are, in ascending order of importance to England's cricket team: a) why does stopping at a red traffic light invariably lead to a knock on the window and an invitation to purchase a set of plastic coathangers, and b) how did the United Cricket Board of South Africa come to arrange two Test matches here bang in the middle of the stormy season?

England have now been in South Africa for the thick end of six weeks, and have played one day and two sessions of international cricket. Pretoria, about half an hour's drive from here, was wrecked by the weather, and the meteorological portents are not much better for the second Test starting at The Wanderers ground today.

cilities at Pretoria's Centurion Park vesterday morning, torrential overnight rain left them unable to do anything bar a few lengths of breaststroke. Not surprisingly, they then returned to The Wanderers, and were just able to fit in their final practice before the place was lit up like

Castle Dracula on a bad night. There has been enough sunshine in Kimberley and Bloemfontein for England to feel that out four seamers." their trip has not been an entire waste of time, but another watery grave here would leave

coastal leg of a thus far anti-

climactic tour. As Raymond Illingworth said yesterday: "There is a good spirit in this side, but it does get hard to keep building them up when they are being buggered around by the weather. I thought we took away a slight psychological advantage from the first Test, and all we can hope for is five full days' play

England have selected an unchanged squad of 13 for this Test match, but although it was only ever going to be

a question of which two seamers to be G P Thorpe left out in Pretoria G A Hick (Devon Malcolm and R A Smith Mark Illott) there will be substantially more D G Cork thought given here to l D Gough omitting their spe-R K Illingworth cialist spinner, Richard Illingworth Both Illingworth

senior and the captain, Michael Atherton, are reluctant to embrace this concept, particularly as pitches are prone to deteriorate here, and last Having decided to avail year's Test against New Zealand match for the New Zealand left-

> On the other hand, the blades on the groundsman's mower had not been set too low when Illingworth peered at the pitch yesterday, and the surface (hardly surprising given the amount of rain they ve had) was far from dry. "It depends how it looks before the toss," Illingworth said, "but I'm not ruling

If so, which four? The case for Malcolm is that there should be more pace than there was at

them less than buoyant before Pretoria, and the case for Illott tain were keen to take the presheading off further west for the is that the ball often swings here. is that the ball often swings here.
The case against Illott is that he is a very friendly pace if the ball isn't doing anything, and the case against Malcolm is that Illingworth - who was recently

pining for a plate of rice pudding - would currently be inclined to whistle up someone other than Malcolm if he wanted the skin knocked off it. Illingworth's jaundiced view

of Malcolm is not universally shared by those around him. but the England manager is not daft, and would

England 13 hardly leave a potential matchwinner inside the dressingroom purely on the grounds that Malcolm appears to reach for the deaf aid when the manager is handing out It may be that Malcolm, at the age

got it any more, but if he does not play in this Test, Malcolm may disap-pear more completely from this tour than Johannesburg did vesterday afternoon under the kind of storm that might have themselves of the better net fa- yielded eight wickets in the made Noah's resemble a passing shower.

of 32, simply hasn't

have flickered across Ravmond's face either when it comes to discussing the current form of Robin Smith, "He's definitely a worry," Illingworth said yesterday."He's not in good form, but we're still backing his big-match temperament."

Atherton was more upbeat ("he has the best Test average of anyone on either side, and has all the fighting qualities I personally like in a player") although both manager and capwith the worst Test average on either side, Mark Ramprakash.

"He's a good player, but it takes some people longer to acclimatise to this level - Mike Gatting was one - than others," Atherton said. "The lad has bags of ability, and needs one big score to get him going," Illing-

However, if neither performs well here, John Crawley will undoubtedly play in the third Test in Durban, and we may not have to wait beyond this series either to see Jack Russell at No 6. Illingworth will not take the risk just yet, but with a bit more batting consistency from the likes of Dominic Cork and Darren Gough, Illingworth would then feel able to pursue his own idea of balance, and play five

South Africa are not without their own worries, notably because their plan to overwhelm England with firepower has had to be slightly reappraised. Brett Schultz is injured, and while not too much should be read into Allan Donald's disrespectful treatment in Sunday's one-day match, the "Bloemfontein bullet", as he is known in these parts, looked more like a man trying to hold up a

More good news for England is the absence of the injured Fanie de Villiers, who has not been sighted out here apart from as one of the judges for the Miss World contest, and advertising something called a Fanie-burger on the windows of various Wimpey Bars. As long as we end up with a cricket match, and not a canoeing slalom, England might yet achieve the rare feat of drawing first blood in a series.



Raymond Illingworth (left) monitors Devon Malcolm's pace yesterday

Sports letter Boxing's valuable

lessons for life

From: Mr D H Willis Sir: I was a little surprised and saddened to read your Chief Sports writer Ken Jones' piece The horror that stalks my enduring passion". It seems that even the most uncompromising sporting scribes are dawdling down the path of political cor-

Boxing fans should become much more assertive and selfconfident in defence of their sport. A campaign should be launched by the British Board of Boxing Control to emphasise | and Sonny Nickle. boxing's many positive qualities. Boxers are highly trained, im-mensely skilful athletes whose quickness of reflex, fleetness of foot and crude raw courage is probably unmatched by any other sporting activity. At its best it is almost magical to behold. Boxing teaches self-discipline and self-control. It ingrains the boxer with a valuable and praiseworthy self-esteem so manifestly missing from so many of today's young people.

It is also dangerous like coal mining and descaling power stations are dangerous. Let boxing support-

ers speak out with a clear and confident voice. There are forces at work who would han it. They know nothing of boxing and boxing people.

DAVID H WILLIS Director, National Sporting onships in Rio de Janeiro, start-Club London

Letters should be marked "For publication" and should contain daytime and evening phone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They may be shortened for reasons of space.

World record fee for Newlove

Paul Newlove finally got the world record move he wanted, after a two and a half year delay was extended by a further nervous hour. The Great Britain centre be-

came the game's most expensive player yesterday when he joined St Helens from the Bradford Bulls in a four-year deal valued at half a million - £250,000 in cash plus Saints first-teamers Paul Loughlin, Bernard Dwyer Newlove, who is set to make

his Saints debut at home to vealed that he had almost joined the club in 1993. "I probably should have come to St Helens over two years ago. but Peter Fox came and swept

me away to Bradford," he said. Ironically it was Fox's replacement as Bradford coach this summer that Newlove

Karen Pickering carries the

weight of British expectation

when she defends her title at the

World Short Course Champi-

ing today.

The Ipswich swimmer, 24

next month, is the only one of

three British gold medallists at

the inaugural championships in

Palma. Majorca, two years ago

to have a chance of repeating

onships, in a 25-metre pool spe-

cially built on the Copacabana

The four-day world champi-

that success in Brazil.

Evolution of rugby league's transfer record Bradford Budls to St Helens £440,000 £250,000

Widnes to Wigan Wigan to Leeds Ellery Hanley Graham Ste therstone to Castleford Garry Schofield Lee Crooks Andy Gregory Hull to Leeds Warrington to Wigan Widnes to Wile Wigan to Hull KR

cited as his main reason for wanting to leave the club. "I always believed in Peter. He was like a grandfather to me and I was disappointed with the way they treated him," he said. Newlove has been unsettled

at Bradford for most of this season, but turned down a move to Wigan two weeks ago in the hope that St Helens would manage to clinch a deal.
"It's a very friendly club and

I've always got on very well with players like Bobbie Goulding and Chris Joynt on international

Saints chief executive, David Howes, relieved that the paperwork was finally completed after a delay in exchanging faxes with Bradford, called it "a

£155,000

£100.000

£72,500

massive deal". "But players of his calibre do not become available very often. We believe we have signed not just one of the best players in Britain, but the best centre in the world and that we are putting together a side that will get rid of our bridesmaid's tag."

Newlove, still only 24, was Great Britain's youngest inhas won 16 Great Britain caps and six for England, including impressive performances in this autumn's Centenary World Cup. He moved from his home-

town club. Featherstone, to Bradford for a fee of £245,000 in July, 1993. The deal that now takes him to Saints beats the previous record, a straight cash payment of £440.000 from igan to Widnes for Martin Offiah in January, 1992.

If Saints were excited by their

new acquisition, then the deal was also being hailed as a tri-umph on the other side of the Pennines. Bradford's chairman, Chris Caisley, said: "These are the players we wanted and our coach, Brian Smith, who returns from America on Friday, is ecstatic that we have got them." The three former Saints,

including Nickle, who has recovered from a knee infection, are all earmarked to make their Bradford debuts against Old-

Lewis set to tempt Bowe with £6m bid

Boxing

Lennox Lewis's handlers are prepared to guarantee Riddick Bowe \$9m (£6m) for their overdue heavyweight meeting in

March or April. Panos Eliades, the London businessman who promotes Lewis, will make the offer to Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, tomorrow in another at-tempt to get the 1988 Olympic rivals together after three years of trying.

"I'm still waiting for Newman to tell me what Bowe should receive for lighting Lewis," Eliades said. "This fight will be good for the sport and we are all geared up for it. It depends if they want the fight or not. I'm ready to guarantee Bowe \$9m." If the sums eventually add up,

the favourite site would be Caesars Palace, Las Vegas. But approaches have also been made for the fight to go ahead in South Africa - or even Kenya. With the major titles tied up

for the foreseeable months. Lewis against Bowe is just about the biggest heavyweight clash around - and, additionally, Bowe is still the World Boxing Organisation champion.
It would bring in the biggest money as the American cable

network, Home Box Office, the big fight paymasters, have it at the top of their list for 1996. Seventeen months ago, when Lewis held the World Boxing Council title, contracts were signed for a Bowe fight to take place in March of this year but Lewis lost to Oliver McCall's at the Wembley Arena soon after the formalities for a £20,6m

bout had been finalised.

Two syndicates race to beat deadline for millennium cup

Two fledgling syndicates are battling to raise the \$100,000 (£60,000) needed to give On the battle for Britain a place for the mil-lennium America's Cup in New Zealand. They need to register by the deadline of 13

The establishment bid. represented by the Royal Yacht Squadron's Maldwin Drummond and the Royal Thames' John Prentice, has got as far as holding a series of negotiations with interested parties, but has yet to announce any financial involvement.

But intriguingly, a darkhorse challenge has appeared in the form of a 31-year old advertising executive from Clapham, David Dent. Dent, who runs his own

media consultancy, has set up the grandly titled, but so far insubstantial, Endeavour 2000 with the specific aim of mounting a British challenge. He admits he has neither money nor high-powered backers, but still expects to be at the next meeting of challengers in New York in January. He hopes he can not only register by May but have at least some of the six sponsors he is seeking at £5m apiece ready to state their commitment. He would like to see some millennium

fund cash made available. Prentice, meanwhile, says good progress was made at a recent two-hour meeting of just six people, which also covered the current malaise in big boat sailing. An action programme is being drawn

Should either group make

British representation in the America's Cup

it to the water, Britain would be up against formidable competition. At least four United States syndicates, including the NYYC, Bill Koch - though not this time with an all-woman syndicate - Dennis Conner, and San Francisco, where Paul Cayard is the favourite to be skipper, are expected. The Japanese have declared, Australia and Spain are expected to take part again and, though there is a question mark over a French challenge there are now strong signs that Daimler-Benz will support-a first appearance by

Germany. Sir Peter Blake, who led the victorious New Zealand challenge last time, said he would be keen for a British challenge to materialise. "Anyone that wants to know, I would be keen to talk to personally. When we went to the US it was very hard, you didn't get a hand from any-body. We want to make things as easy for everyone as

The defending New Zealanders have, as expected, decided not to create an internal competition for the de-fence job and will have just one syndicate. Auckland expects 12 to 15 challenging syndicates from what the New York Yacht Club describes as 35 serious enquiries.





ban must include an Olympics.

100m freestyle bronze medal to

go with her 200m freestyle gold

in Britain's most successful

championships in more than a

decade, is confident she can take

Pickering, who also won a

Britain banking on Pickering glittering beach, begins three days after the international federation, Fina, meet. In Palma I knew I could decided to impose tougher do personal best times and I am penalties for doping abuse. Fina has doubled the previthe same here."

her latest challenge in her stride. was a cocky youngster but now

This time, however, Pickering will have to beat the chalous maximum ban to four years for tests revealing the use of anlenge of German multi Olympic, world and European abolic steroids and has intromedallist Franziska Van Almduced retroactive bans to take sick, who missed the Palma away from offenders medals and records achieved in the previchampionships. ous 12 months. The four-year

Britain's own Olympic, world, European and Commonwealth medallist of the early 1980s, Sarah Hardeastle, is hungry for further success. However, the 26-year-old

said: "It's harder now as a se-

nior than as a junior. I know I

vals, which is not necessarily a good thing."

At the European Championships in Vienna last August, nerves got the better of Hardcastle. But this time she is contesting the 400m medley on the first day. She said: "It will give me a

chance to get used to the surroundings and a good swim will give me confidence." Her main rivals in the 400m and 800m freestyle are Claudia Poll, of Costa Rica, and the German pair of Julia Jung - the European champion over 800m and Dagmar Hase, the Olympic

UP 100 150

Blues come

inder the weather

Wales pick Bowring as new coach

Rugby Union

STEVE BALE

-Shannesburg

Kevin Bowring yesterday picked up the poisoned chalice as the new, £50,000-a-year Wales coach and ran with it with a fine disregard for the baleful fate of all his recent predecessors. In the end the Wales A coach and Dunnis John, coach of Pontypridd, were the only candidates to be interviewed.

Not that Bowring, whose contract is for four years - ending at the 1999 World Cup - saw it in such negative terms when he was introduced at Cardiff Arms Park yesterday, 247 days after the resignation of Alan Davies. But he is well aware of the insecurity of the job as it passed Tony Gray, John Ryan, Ron Waldron, Davies and Alex Evans since 1988 and knows, too, of the abuse to which Evans has lately been subjected.

All Bowning needs to avoid such a fate is to produce a successful team. "I appreciate it hasn't been the safest job in the past and we need a structure more supportive of the national team and the national coach."

Bowring, 41, a hard-working flanker, began his playing career at home with Neath but after studying at Borough Road College, the eminent rugby academy down the road from Twickenham, had 350 games over nine seasons with London

Bowing led them in three sea-sons and also captained Middlesex but never achieved any form of Welsh representative recognition until he became the Under-20s' coach in 1989. His time coaching Wales A - only

four defeats in 13 games and a much-admired style of play – was enough for him to be entrusted with the senior side for the Fiji match three weeks ago when the original caretaker, Alex Evans, was recovering from a shoulder

operation. The new coach will cease his present job as director of physical education and head of games at Clifton College at the end of term and take up his new post next month. When the Welsh Rugby Union's four-man appointments' panel conducted the interviews the competition had been drastically reduced by the withdrawal of both Clive Griffiths and Pierre Villepreux.

Griffiths was unwilling to upset Warrington rugby league club, his current employers, while a transport strike in France would have meant Villepreux could not have reached Cardiff even if he had wanted to. Villepreux has, however, offered his services as a consultant and remains a possibility for the £80,000-a-year post of WRU rugby director which has attracted 48 applications,

The narrow victory over the Filians gave Bowring an instant insight into a job in which successive occupants have become the Aunt Sallys of Welsh rugby, In giving up infinitely more security at a famous public school where his wife also teaches, he knows he is taking a risk.

The sheer excitement of the challenge was why I accepted." he said. "There is a job to be done and a lot of work, and we need a great deal of planning to achieve our aims. But there are some exciting youngsters in the squad and their determination and enthusiasm to get back to the top are infectious."

Orrell to use Wigan's ground

Wigan Rugby League club's Central Park ground could stage the first rugby union match to its 94-year history on 30 December. Orrell, based only four miles from Wigan, will play Saracens there in the Courage League if their executive committee, as expected. accepts Wigan's offer.

With professional rugby league switching to summer

Mike Gibson, the legendary Ire-

land and Lions threequarter,

returned to Grange Road yes-

terday to unveil an honours

board of Cambridge players who

On the clubhouse wall are

have won international caps.

Cambridge University

Steele-Bodger's XV

next year, Wigan are keen to make use of their 24,000 capacity stadium during winter. In return the rugby league club hopes to play reserve matches at Orrell's Edge Hall Road ground.

"We will try out a game and take it from there." Wigan's chairman, Jack Robinson, said. They will have to see what sort of crowd they get to work out if it is financially viable."

Fresh from their notable vic-

Saturday, Cambridge added

another feather to their cap with

away, must have been heartened

by events in the first quarter

when Steele-Bodger's scored

three tries and led 17-0. Cam-

bridge, fielding nine of the side

that beat the Samoans, were in

The spies from Oxford, with

this impressive win.



Samoans step up pace

draw with Scotland 12 days ago

has appeared scarcely possible

given the variability of their rug-

by in their two Oxbridge match-

es over the past week, "It's a

privilege for us to be here at the

home of rugby," gasped Pat Lam, the tourists' captain, as if

he could not quite believe it.

His players go on to play the rest of the English divisions and

culminate with the Test back at

Twickenham - in front of 78,000

as opposed to vesterday's 10,000

inflated by at least 1,700 give-

aways - on 16 December. On

this inconclusive evidence they

will cause England inconve-

nience but no more than that.

more than cancelled out Mick

Watson's for London so that

Samoa reached the interval with

their noses in front after a

mediocre first half. Lam's had an

especially detrimental effect on

David Pears, whose challenge for

the England outside-half place

had not in any case looked too

Tries by Brian Lima and Lam

STEVE BALE

Western Samoa

One minute the Samoans were thrashing London with the best and most therapeutic rugby of their tour; the next they were

themselves being run ragged by a divisional side almost as wantonly unpredictable as the happier islanders. Happier, that is, than they were after their wretched showing against Cambridge last Saturday, though yesterday at Twickenham they found the open spaces eventually reduced them

to exhaustion when Steve Bates

persuaded his team to adopt the

principle of total rugby.
This was a laudable intent, the trouble being that London, who have already lost twice in the Divisional Championship. did not have the skills to match. A bit like English rugby, really, "It's pointless putting out a representative side and not giving them time to prepare," Tony Jorden, the London coach, complained. Still, at 11-35 it did appear as if a hu-

miliation rather than a simple persuasive in front of the watching Jack Rowell when he took defeat had been in the offing. For the Samoans the game, the full force of the pile-driving particularly given its venue, run by Steve Smith in creating was critical in establishing their the try for his captain. credibility in England, where the At half-time, moments later,

the injury-prone Pears made the familiar trudge to the dressingroom, having hurt the same ankle he injured in a collision with Mike Catt last month. During the next 20 minutes Lima added two tries for the

Samoans and London had only consolation to play for. Watson, Lawrence Dallaglio and Peter Mensah provided it with further tries with To'o Vaega scoring the Samoans' fifth in between. Salmotals Hitti III Detweeth.
Londov: Tries Watson 2, Datago, Mensair,
Conversions Gregory 3: Penentities Peers 2,
Western Samoe: Thes Irm 3, Lom, Vaegac
Conversions heltett 3: Penentities reflett 3,
LONDON: J Ulton (Massis): D O'Losry, P Mensah (Hartequirs), N Greenstock (Waspo), A
Adebayo (Both): D Pears (Hartequirs), S Bayles
(Massis, Cay): J Leonent, B Moore (Hartequirs), I
Denston (Waspo), S Sace, M Waspon (Har-

Adebuyo (1901); Diebars (Harequins), Sisale (Nasps, capit), Jiaonend, Bi Moore (Harequins I Duniston (Wasps), S Salow, M Watson (Ha lequins), I. Dallaglio (Wasps), A Diproc (Saracers), R Jenidon (Wasps), Replace ment: G Grugory (Wasps) for Pears, h-L Saracerci, R Jendins (Harlequis), Replace ment: G Gregory (Wasps) for Peers, h-t. WESTERN SAMON; A Autogavia (Suburos); I Line (Mars), S Leeaga (Suburos), G Leusepe (Razio), T Farinsso (Assa Police); D Kellet (Porsonby), J Filema (Welington); M Millia (Ota po Linvershy), T Leasamailmen (Welington); Liab (Varinos), M Birtaistie (Suburos), Leavesa Jupa), S Selith (Peersonie), P Lan (Mars), capit, S Kelleth (Porsonby, Replace ments: S Valifiale (Mars)) for Leavesa, 28; 1 Marson, College (Parson).

Median (Median (Median

Light Blues come back with spirit and adventure

Two-game ban for **Batty and Le Saux**

MARK BURTON

Graeme Le Saux and David Batty have been banned for two European games for their punch-up on the pitch during

Blackburn's Champions' League game in Moscow a week ago. Uefa, football's governing body in Europe, had apparently decided to take no action because the Italian referee of the match against Spartak made no mention of the pair's sparring. However, the Fair Play report compiled by a Uefa official highlighted the tracas, so the ban was imposed "for grossly unsporting conduct."

The news has come as a bit of a shock to the club," Blackburn's chairman, Robert Coar, said. "All the statements we had seen attributed to Uefa in the media said they were not going to take any further actions and that the club's internal disciplinary actions would stand." Blackburn have already heavily fined both players.

The Football Association,

which had urged Uefa to act.

was surprised but pleased with the about-turn. "We asked Uefa to consider taking action and they have now done so. We consider this to be the end of the

matter," a spokesman said. Paul Gascoigne, John Brown and Alan McLaren will make up their own minds whether to ap-pear before a Scottish FA disciplinary panel today. The three Rangers players, along with the Aberdeen striker Billy Dodds, have been summoned following incidents during the game be-tween Rangers and the Dons on 11 November. They have not yet

been charged with anything. Rangers' secretary, Campbell Ogilvy, said the players had been advised by club director Donald Findlay QC on the pros and cons of appearing, or declining to do so.

The situation has been complicated by the fact that the Procurator Fiscal in Glasgow has asked for a report on the game. There is concern that should the SFA find any or all of the players guilty, their decision could have implications for potential court proceedings. The Procurator yesterday would not say how many players were involved in the inves-

tigation. The battle for control of Sheffield United appears to have been settled, with two businessmen, Mike McDonald and Martyn Burke, each buying half the holding of the former chairman, Reg Brealey. Mc-Donald will assume the role of chairman while Burke will become vice-chairman. They have pledged £1.5m to United's manager, Dave Bassett, for team re-

The Football Supporters Association will today unveil a system of legal back-up for fans in trouble. Their Legal Network for Fans aims to put the football supporter in touch with solicitors experienced in dealing with football issues.
"Often the first contact at a

police station is with a solicitor who may not be interested in football and have no idea of the issues involved," the FSA's national chairman, Tim Crabbe, said. "We have got together a list of solicitors with a commitment to supporters' rights which will be distributed to fans."

Charlton The Russians bring will wait Ajax down to earth for Keane

mission to enter their airspace.

forcing it to circle while the

finally granted, the aircraft had

consumed so much fuel that it

had to return to Narita [Tokyo] for refuelling," a KLM spokesman in Tokyo said.

ing over flight numbers." the

KLM spokesman in Amster-

KLM does not operate a

scheduled Tokyo-Amsterdam

flight on Wednesdays and this

extra flight had a four-digit

number instead of the usual

three. "The mix-up has been

Dmitry Polkanov at the Russ-

ian Centre of Air Traffic in

Moscow said the plane was re-

penalties, the Ajax team en-

dured a wearying journey that

still had many hours to go be-

The débâcle forced Amster-

dam to postpone its massive

fore they reached home.

dam, Hans Leijte, said.

sorted out," Leijte said.

"It was all a misunderstand-

"By the time permission was

problem was resolved.

Jack Charlton, the Republic of club champions, left for home Ireland manager, has left a for the second time yesterday place open for Roy Keane in his after their original flight from Tokyo was refused permission to fly over Russia, an airport squad to face the Netherlands in the European Championship spokesman said. The chartered KLM aircraft

qualifying play-off match at Antield on 13 December. The Manchester United midfield player had a hernia operation three weeks ago and missed Ireland's 3-0 defeat in Portugal. He has played in only three of his country's 10 ties in

ished second. Charlton, though, is determined to give him every chance of appearing in the Anfield decider and will stay in contact with Keane's club manager, Alex Ferguson, to monitor the progress of the player's recov-

Group Six, in which they fin-

Charlton names only 21 players, with the Manchester City striker Niall Quinn suspended after receiving his second yel-low card of the qualifying tournament in Portugal.

"If it can be proved that Keane has recovered from his injury. I would still like to have him in the squad and I will leave it as long as possible to see what can be done," Charlton said.

Meanwhile, Charlton's decision to once more invoke the five-day international rule, giving him first call on players from the Saturday before the Anfield decider, has caused consternation among Premiership clubs who face a full programme on the prior weekend.

the prior weekend.

REPUBLIC OF INELAND SQUAD (European Champloselle qualifying play-off v Netherlands, Uverpool PC, 13 December: A Kelly (Sheffied Und). Bowner (Cette), Invia (Manchester Und), 6 Kelly (Lreds), Kenna (Blackourn), MoGrath (Aston Villa), Babb (Lueropol), Phelina (Cheksel, Staunton Visto) Houghton (Sheffield Wednestey), Houghton Villa), McAther (Bolton), Milligan (Norwich), Townsend (Aston Villa), McLoephin (Portsmouth), D Kelly (Sunderrand), Aldridge (Trannere), Cascarino (Marselle), Kennedy (Liverpool), Morths (Middlesbrough), Kernaghan (Manchester City).

Ajax, the newly crowned world were well underway yesterday morning.

"The tribute has been cancelled until further notice." a city council spokeswoman said. The protracted delay will disappoint thousands of fans.

Ajax's European Cup win over Milan in May drew an esintended to retrace its flight timated quarter of a million path to Amsterdam after winsupporters to Amsterdam's cenning permission to fly over Russia. However, Russian autral Museumplein. thorities denied the plane per-

Narita The spokesman said the Boeing 747, carrying 230 passengers – about 30 team members and 200 Dutch supporters - originally left Tokyo at about

12.30pm local time. It arrived back in Tokyo at about 7.40pm and after spending two hours on the ground took off again at 9.40pm. Passengers were not allowed off the plane while it was on the eround.

The plane was expected to spend about another 12 hours in the air before reaching Amsterdam.

Sunday's Dutch First Division match between NAC Breda and Feyenoord has been postponed owing to a series of strikes by police, the Dutch football association said yes-

fused permission to enter Russian airspace because none of his "As far as we know no controllers had information other matches have been afabout flight KLM 8623. He fected by the police actions, said KLM had apologised for a spokeswoman for the assonot announcing the charter ciation said. "The match beflight properly in advance. Thus, a day after winning the tween Fevenoord Rotterdam and NAC Breda will be played World Club title in Tokyo by on Monday." beating Gremio of Brazil 4-3 on

The Rotterdam mayor, Bram Peper, said that a planned action by police on Sunday would not leave enough officers for crowd control. Police in various parts of the Netherlands will take turns to strike between 8am homecoming celebrations for and 6pm in support of a pay and Ajax, for which preparations conditions claim.

303 names and the way things danger of being overrun but it are going for the Light Blues is a measure of their spirit, organisation and fitness that they one or two of the current squad could be added to the list. finished the stronger.

England A's second "Test" match against Pakistan A, which starts today in Rawalpindi, is almost certain to begin late because of a wet square. Conditions are so poor that the game might not even get underway until tomorrow.

seeped under the tarpaulin covering used at the KRL Ground and it has left a pitch with the consistency of wet plasticine, surrounded by muddy patches covering the rest of the square.

Reconstruction work at Rawalpindi's main stadium, to prepare it for the three World Cup matches to be staged in February and March, means



England A under the weather that the second Test has had to be played on a ground belong-ing to the Civil Aviation Authorities.

A spongy, well grassed outfield - in addition to the pitch conditions - is sure to make runscoring a difficult business during the next five days. John Emburey, the England

Yesterday's heavy rain A manager, said: "The pitch is very wet and it will only have dried out a bit by tomorrow. I can't see the match beginning until the afternoon at the earliest - and winning the toss is going to be important. But we are 1-0 up in the series so obviously we don't want to start the game until conditions im-

The A team management have named a 13-man squad, deciding that only the Warwickshire batsman Dominic Ostler and the Hampshire offspinner Shaun Udal will definitely not be involved. nitely not be involved.

ENGLAND A SQUAD for Second Test v Pakistan at Rawaipindi today): N v Knight, J E
R Gaftan, "N Hussan, A McGrain, J C Pooiey, R C Iran, C White, Ht J Poper, I D X Salistany, D W Haadley, R D Stemp, I A

CRICKETLINE SOUTH AFRICA V ENGLAND BALL BY BALL COMMENTARY 0891-567-567 REPORTS & SCORES 0891-567-555

Athletic

tory over Western Samoa on sides scored five tries, the dif-

The International Amateur Athletic Federation has oversided a decision by the South African federation to lift a three-month drugs ban on Philip Spies, the Javelin thrower. Soles tested positive at the All Africa Invitation meeting in Johannesburg in September but was lat-er cleared by Athletics South Africa after claiming the banned substance was contained in a vitamin supplement he was taking with the consent of ASA officials.

Badmainton

WORLD GRAND PROY (Singapore) First-round
scores: Men's singles: Heryento Arb Indiced by
J Deson (Swe): 15-6:15-7; Ong Ever Hock Arkineli
In P-E Hoper Larsen (Den): 15-8: 15-8: John
Supranto (Indon) by Tan San Peng (Sing): 15-4
15-5; H Herdonson (Indon) by Tennessen Susanto
(Indon): 15-9: 15-4; Anly Waranta (Indon): by Fung
Permath (Ind.): 15-11: 15-4; Rasind Solité (Maloysa)
by Lee Austrijn (S Nort 15-11: 15-7; Dong Jong
(Dermath (Ind.): 15-13-15-7; A Bunk
Nusume (Indon): by Plasmussen (Done): 15-6: 15-12.

Basketball MBA: Cleveland 93 Toronto 95; Marrii 111 Dal-las 85; New Jarsey 89 Washington 84; Atlentu 102 New York, 97 (od); Charlotte 106 Mahaculuse 98; Minnesota 121 Vencourer 98; Houston 116 LA Clippers 103; Indiana 102 Sentile 101; Sacra-

Boxing
Mickey Duff has opened negotiations with
Don King to secure Richie Woodhal, the
European middleweight champion, a
world title fight in Las Vegas next March.
Quincy Taylor, the World Boong Council's
middleweight champion, has been ordered to defend his title against Woodhall by 17 March and Woodhall hopes
it will be part of the undercard to Frank
Bruno's world neasyweight title defence
against Mike Tyson on 16 March.

The British Horse Trials Championships at Gatcombe Park next year have moved to a new date (31 August to 1 September) in order to fit in with tele-

the University match two weeks School. The game may have been played with a sense of adventure that will not be matched at Twickenham on 12 December, but there was nothing superficial about it, nor about the result. Niall Hogan, the Irish international scrum-half, scored three tries. His first, from charging down an Ashforth kick,

In a cracking match both

ference being two penalties

gave Steele-Bodger's the lead which they swiftly built upon with further tries from Matt Poole and Jain Morrison.

from Rob Ashforth, Cam-By half-time Cambridge were bridge's 19-year-old stand-off from Bradford Grammar only two points behind. When Ashforth gave them the lead with a try early in the second half, Hogan responded with two quick scores to give Steele-Bodger's a nine-point cushion, 29-20. Once again Cambridge took the game to their oppo-nents, scoring 15 points without reply in the last quarter and this despite suffering a series of

S Cottrell (St Edmund's, capit, J Rutter (St John's); R Ashterith (Peterbause), D Masslee (St John's); R Ashterith (Peterbause), D Masslee (St John's); R Ashterith (Peterbause), D Masslee (St Cathame's), N Holigast (Robinson), R Brawley (St Edmund's), D Rutter (Homeston), M Hyde (St Edmund's), J Cooles (St Edmund's), Surnidge (Wolston, Replacements D Moore (Immy Hall) for Cayon, 35; G Fary (Hughes Holistor Hyde, n-t; T Whittlend (Homeston) for Cottell, 51; B Ryan (Homeston) for Whittlend, 54.
Staele-Bodger's XV: I Glasgow (Henor's FP); A Jones (Harlequas), In Denney (Perston), N Beales (Northampton), R Deviles (Parlequas); P Bautes (Col Constanton), N Hogen (Ferston), B Bautes (Col Constanton), N Hogen (Ferston), M Homest (Worczester), M Mang (Estn), M Poole (Lecaster), C Glasson (Coucaster), I Mignison (London Scottsh), R Poole-Jones (Wasps), Referees D Chapman (Yorkshree).

SPORTING DIGEST

vision schedules. The meeting had been due to clash with the Silk Cut Derby meeting at Hickstead, which the BBC would have shown in preference, but now both fixtures will be televised.

Wigan have signed Leeds United's 21-year-old left-back, Kevin Sharp, for a club-record £100,000. Sharp has

signed a two-and-a-half year deal and is expected to make his debut at Ply-mouth a week on Saturday. Jordi Cruyff, the Barcelona forward, will

bord cruyif, the bacterial lowards, was be cut of action for two months because of a knee injury. The striker, whose fa-ther, Johan, is Barcelona's coach, has already missed most of the season be-cause of the injury. George Weah, the Liberan international,

has been voted the best African foot-baller of 1995 by the Confederation of African Football. The 29-year-old Milan striker finished top of a poli with 45 points, 15 more than Japhet Ndoram of Chad, who came second.

points, 15 more man Japmer, recording of Chad, who came second.

Tuesnows Lute Result is Coon-Coin Cop fourth round: Reading 2 Southampton 1. Auto Windscreens Sheld Second round: Brendow 1 Mandacreens Sheld Second round: Brendow 1 States 1: Romangron 2: Crostoffed 2 Recording 1; Ruta 1: Recording 2: Lincoln 2 Presson 1: Cadon Util 1 Colrects 2 Peterborough 1 States of, Rotherham of Wigen 0 (Rotherham of 1 States of, Rotherham of Wigen 0 (Rotherham of Wigen 1) States of, Rotherham of 1 States 1 Considered 1 States of 1 States of 1 States 1 S

AMERICAN EXPRESS TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL (La Menga Chib, Sp) Leading second-round scores (68 or lif unless stated): 1.43 T Crair 17 77. 1.44 A.M. Mraght (May 15 69. 145 T Lowys 72 73. 144 F-F J Smith 75 72; I Trming (Den) 7.76. 1.48 R B Mraght (May 17.5 S Shirpe 72 76; I Mills (May 69 79. 1.48 D Dornger (US) 72 77; S Harriey (US) 74 75; H Leg (Can) 77 72; S Mehn (Swe) 75 74. 150 F Fethaure (Gen 75 75; M Bustom (Swe) 75 76. 18 Harriey (US) 75 75. 151 Magoni (UT) 79 72; H Koch (Swe) 74 77; E Engstrom (Swe) 75 76; Livete 76 75; S Bloot 77 74; M McKinby 71.80.

NHL: Detox 3 Montaval 2; Colorado 7 NY Islanders 3; Prissburgh 7 Orawa 2; Whrispeg 4 Toronto 3; Chicago 5 Edmonton 3.

VERMONS: Trable charge: £151.00.
VERMONS: Trable charge: 24pt. £15,779.65, 23 £205.55, 22 £20.20, 21 £4.55, 10 homes £1,167.00. Five aways £74.00.
BERTILENS: Trable chance: 24pts £3,550.65, 23 £54.10, 22 £4.35, 21 £1.20. Fote draws £25.10. Eight homes £43.75. Five aways £56.60.

Rughy Union
Massimo Glovanelli, Milan's back-row
forward sent off for head-butting in the
Heinelen European Cup against Pontypridd last week, has had a 60-day ban the length of the suspension.

Munster, the reigning irish Inter-provincial champions, will field a langely experimental team in Saturday's match against the Transwaal in Cork. With seven players out through rijury and other commitments, the side includes five new faces and three positional changes from the line-up that slipped to a surprise defeat against Ulster last week.

MUNSTER TEAM ("Immersal, Cork, Sat 2 Dec): 5 McChalle (Sunday's Well; it Wellace (Carryoven), 6 Washs (Cork Constitution), P. Morray (Shanday's Wall): P Burke (Cork Constitution), Sindows (Sargoven), P. Cambiesoy (Young Munster), M. Celwey (Shannori, G. Fatcher (Cork Constitution), D. Cerbery (Ternise Coffee), G. Earls (Young Munster), B. Tolaed (Old Crescent).

CES TOUR MATCH: Cambindge Univ 35 Steele-Bodgers XV 29

upheid. Giovernelli had appealed against the length of the suspension.

ROYAL LIVER ASSURANCE UK CHAMPIONSHIP (Preston) Quester-fizaks: S Hendy (Scol leads K Doneny (ri) 6-2. Match resumes 2.0 today.

Speedway

Spesiumary
Britain's Premier League is set to expand
to 22 teams next season. At the British
Speedway Promoters' Association anrual conference of Tenefile, all 21 members of the league voted it a success,
with most clubs reporting increased gates
since the First and Second Divisions were

Stunt kite-flying

Alfridate, a four-man British team from London, have won the World Cup in Victoria, Australia. After twice being the runners-up, Carl and James Robertshaw, Nic Boothby and Jeremy Boyce finally ended American domination in the sport when they outflew 14 other trame in

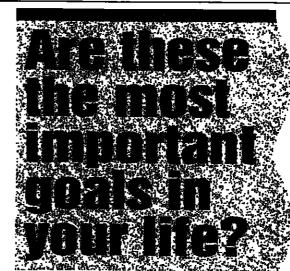
Sanderson aims at Atlanta

Tessa Sanderson, the former Olympics in Atlanta next year. Sanderson, who was a gold medallist at the 1984 Los Anat the request of the charity Children in Hospital, for whom she hopes to raise up to £1m.

She said that Sir Anthony Tippet, the charity's chairman, had

difference it will make," she said. "I have been training hard - but Olympic javelin champion, I will need the support of chilwants to compete in her sixth dren around the country to reach our target of £1m and bring back a gold medal for Britain. My challenge to children geles Games, is back in training is to join my team. Help me to raise funds to improve the quality of care for children in hospital throughout the UK."

Children in Hospital is a registered charity consisting of 19 asked her to return to Olympic children's hospitals or paediatric competition to help sick children in major general hospitals throughout the UK.



The Royal Navy is recruiting now.

net walkinde completes and applications from all others groups.

NAVY

Secondly you should have been a list assistent for the part that years. **Jein the Navy. Call 8345 306 123.**



The case against Malcolm is that Illingworth – who was recently pining for a plate of rice pudding – would currently be inclined to whistle up someone other than Malcolm if he wanted the skin knocked off it.' MARTIN JOHNSON on the second Test Page 2

No alcohol ban for fight promotions

LIZ SEARL

Alcohol will not be banned at tournaments, despite a British Boxing Board of Control tribunal yesterday agreeing that drink played a major part in the riot at the fight which resulted in James Murray's death.

An inquiry by the BBBC's stewards into the disturbance when Murray fought Drew Docherty in a bantamweight title contest in Glasgow last month said that the incident appeared to have been influenced by alcohol. However, the BBBC claims it does not have enough evidence to warrant outright

Instead, the provision of alcohol will still be left to the promoter's discretion, although drinking in auditoriums is already banned for reasons of

The tribunal, chaired by former Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Sir David Hopkin. concluded that the section of the audience at Glasgow's Hospitality Inn who had purchased tickets for the boxing only and not the dinner had caused the disturbance. In view of this "the Board will not permit this mixed type of private and pub-

"We felt by the nature of the Warren and Katherine Morriflare-up that it must have been son or the venue for the riot. [alcohol]," John Morris, the neral secretary of the BBBC, said. "The evidence wasn't strong enough, but that was our

A decision to ban alcohol would have wider financial im-plications. "Venues require and need to have food and drink available because it is part of their revenue and the cost for the promoter would rise dramatically if they were to have no drink at all," Morris said.

The BBBC, which extended its deepest sorrow to the family and friends of Murray who died as a result of the bout, emphasised that it was not inquiring into the circumstances or causes of the boxer's death. "We are just trying to get to the bottom of what happened on the night," he said. "The object is to look ahead to see if anything can be done with safety," Mor-

At the end of its short report, the BBBC advocated the use of police and security staff to implement safety measures and maintain a high level of security even if promotions have taken place regularly and successfully at the same venue over a period of time.

The panel had had a long look into the many aspects of mixed boxing evenings, which could be difficult to control and Morris revealed that Morrison would discontinue "mixed" shows - of dinner and boxing in future, despite running the

for five years.
"Alcohol just needs to be properly controlled and we have to make sure that there is no drink in auditoriums with strict liason with security staff." Morris said.

The Board had already or dered that security should be tightened at major fights 14 months ago, after it investigated the riot at the NEC in Birmingham when chairs were thrown between rival supporters during the Robert Mc-

Cracken v Steve Foster fight. The Board decided not to introduce closed-circuit television surveillance as advocated by Warren. "That is something that individual promoters may want to consider," Morris said. "It would be very expensive but we will be watching its development with interest.

Strathclyde Police, who sent an observer, said it was not able to offer an opinion on the out-They were satisfied that no come as action is pending on infault lay with promoters Frank dividuals involved in riot.

Sky's Premier League ambitions under threat

Football

DAVID HELLIER AND

Sky's chances of extending its coverage of Premier League football for another five years have been dealt a potentially se-

Advisers close to the Premier League confirmed last night that they had received guidance written into the last agreement, allowing Sky to trump any offer for television rights, is considered ultra vines, or unlawful.

"This agreement has been around for three and a half years," said an adviser close to the Premier League. "It has come under intense scrutiny. It is our view that the clause is unenforceable."

The advice appears to open up the auction for the crucial rights to Premiership matches, which have been the driving force behind Sky's success in the past three and a half years. Until now many experts have predicted that Sky's ability to

than last time around, was a mere formality.

However, Sky insisted last night that its own senior counsel believed the clause to be en- competitive." forceable. It accused the Premier League of: "trying to get leverage over Sky. This contract has further two years to run. There tract and it is enforceable. He [the Premier League's chief exput Sky in the position where it has to pay his price."

Sky announced on Tuesday that it had secured the rights to FA Cup on its sports channels - but the biggest attraction for satellite, cable and terrestial channels is coverage of the Premier League, which brings with it 60 live top-class match-

es per season. A Premier League spokes-man told the *Independent* this week that the £125m Sky deal with the Endsleigh League would in no way influence the negotiations for Premier extend its contract for another League coverage. "We have no

five years, albeit at a higher price intention of limiting ourselves to one bidder," the spokesman said. "It's clear that the Premier League is what everybody wants and the market for it will be

Yesterday Parry declined to comment on what he said were "commercially sensitive" matters. Media industry analysts exis a first and last right in the con- pect that competing bids for the Premier League could come from ITV and a consortium of five-year deal could rise to £700m or more, compared to £304m last time around.

■ ITV were yesterday forced show Endsleigh League foot-ball, the Coca-Cola Cup and the announcement that they have secured a four-year deal for exclusive live coverage of the FA Cup final. The commercial channel's capture of the game's domestic showpiece from the BBC is now due to be unveiled at an official launch within the next week. "It leaked before we were really ready to announce everything," a spokesperson for ITV said. "There are no

very complex deal."

More football, page 27

Pools of paradise: an aerial view of the two 25-metre outdoor arenas on Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana Beach built especially for the World Short-Glittering Pickering, page 26; Photograph: Renzo Gotoli/Reuter Course Swimming Championships which begin today

er with a run of 59. All the

Dubliner required was a clear-

ance up to the blue but he

After several safety ex-

changes Doherty found himself snookered tight behind the

brown ball. Trying to find an escape to hit the green, he struck

the blue three times. At the fourth attempt he reached his target, but he left the ball well

positioned for Hendry to clear

session were shared and Do-

herty will be frustrated that he did not put himself on level terms going into the concluding phase of the match this after-

noon. Hendry requires only

stay on course for his fourth UK

Results, Sporting Digest, page 27

three of the last nine fram

title in six years.

The last two frames of the

green to pink to go 5-1 up.

Hendry forges ahead despite loss of form

fluffed an easy pink with a pos-

sible 144 on the table. Doher-

ty, the world No 9 who has won

the score at 1-1 with runs of 48

cause of his tendency to make

schoolboy errors. Breaks of 37 and 85 allowed Hendry, the de-

fending champion, to move into a 3-1 lead at the mid-

However, the Scot seemed

certain to lose the fifth when

Doherty forged clear, courtesy of a 53 break. To his cost Do-

herty missed an easy pink and

Hendry's own 53 eventually helped him take the frame

In the next frame, it was

Hendry's turn to make the mis-

ession interval.

He was never as close to Hendry again, partly because of some bad luck and partly be-

meetings with Hendry, levelled yellow.

He won the opening frame take. He led by 47 points to nil, with a break of 85 but then he but allowed Doherty to recov-

only two of his 10 previous snookered himself on the final

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Fair where second-rate fauteuil is exchanged (9) 6 A thousand fish appear der part of the ship (4)

city (5) 11 Sounds like instruction to Pekinese that's standing!

12 Article about time - and love in addition (7) 13 Property of some gases circulating in the air, but not

hydrogen (7) 14 Soldiers, in confusion, rule the French be put on a

charge (7,6) 17 Continues talking about a packet for prizes (4,1,6,2) 21 What a stripper will have on at night potentially? (7)

24 A native of e. g. Nairobi? der part of the ship (4)

That's wrong (9)

10 A bit of stuff I love in Latin

25 Bring back the rod to establish authority (5) 26 Yes, a rich street (4) 27 Slippery character adopted

by posh guy and top lady becomes even more suave British endure old fellows

at zero hour (5-3) Home for one with promise

Crown's made of iron - and

there's tin setting as well

wine's been in the bot-

the Fishing League? (5-4,5) 23 Benefit from a cover for

Being sixteen, gets converted and joins the church (9) A carriage that's secure for taking gold (6)

wanderer like me (4, 10) Just set up the suspect. That's nothing to us (9) 16 Let feet turn freely (8)18 What's a hooker doing at a bend in the river? Solicit-

A check on the activities of

ing? (7) 19 Offensive relation has one (7) 20 The Prisoner's - fashionable

Thomson reaches final at last 22 Charge to tell you how long 5 Ancient Greek found lurking in the French internet?

> The world indoor champion. Andy Thomson, who has fallen A lovely spot for a rambling in three previous semi-finals. yesterday sealed a final meeting with the defending champion. John Price, in the CIS Masters

> > out the Scottish champion, Paul Conlan, in three sets. The Englishman took the opening set 7-3 in eight ends but the 25-year-old Scot, who defends his title today, needed just

in Coatbridge. Thomson edged

Stephen Hendry had a rare off

day at the Royal Liver Assur-

ance UK Championship in Pre-ston yesterday, but the Scot still

managed to establish a 6-2

overnight advantage over his Irish stablemate, Ken Doherty, in their best-of-17-frames quar-

When the pair met in the 1994 UK final, Hendry went on

a potting spree, running up

seven century breaks over the

course of 12 frames during his

10-5 victory.

The world No 1 came close

to reproducing that dazzling form in the earlier rounds of this

tournament, including his 147

maximum against Gary Wilkin-son in the last 16. But after threatening to launch his bid for

the penultimate round with another massive clearance. Hendry went off the boil.

ter-final

three ends to square the match. After dropping a single on the first end of the second set, Conlan scored successive counts of

three and four for a 7-1 win. Thomson then started well in the decider, with three shots on the opening end, followed by three singles, to take him within one of victory at 6-0. He wrapped up the set two ends later at 7-1. Price had earlier coasted to his lifth final in seven years in

the event, with a 7-1, 7-2 victo-

ry over the Commonwealth gold

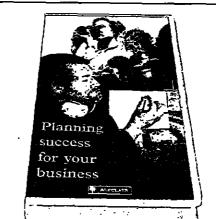
The Swansea player, who also won the title in 1991. forged a 65-0 lead after four ends. Corsic responded with a fifth-end single but Price wrapped up the set with a dou-ble on the next end. The Welshman then scored doubles on the opening two ends of the second set before Corsie came back into contention with singles on

the third and fourth. Price, however, went on to wrap up victory with further singles on the sixth and seventh ends. Results, Sporting Digest, page 27

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medallist. Richard Corsic.

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